

THE
BOOK
OF
JASHER.

WITH
Testimonies and Notes explanatory of the *Text*.

To which is Prefixed,
VARIOUS READINGS.

Translated into ENGLISH from the HEBREW, by ALGUIN,
Of BRITAIN, who went a Pilgrimage into the HOLY LAND.

This BOOK is twice mentioned in Holy Scripture, viz. in *Josb.* x. 13.
and in *2 Sam.* i. 18. in both which Places it is appealed to as a Work of
Credit and Reputation, and as such was at that Time had in great Esteem.

Printed in the Year MDCCLI.

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OF
JAS. H. R.

WITH

Testimonies and Notes explanatory of the Text.

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VARIOUS READINGS.

Translated into English from the Hebrew, by A. C. G. L.

OF BETHLEHEM, who was formerly a Slave.

The Book of James H. R. is a new and complete edition of the
and in a few years it is expected to be a great
Good and beautiful work, and is a great blessing.



Printed in the Year MDCCL.



T O T H E

Right Honourable the Earl of * * * * *

My LORD,



THE following translation of *The Book of Jasher* fell into my hands thirty years ago by meer accident. I was travelling in the North of England, to see the country; and coming into a little town, where I intended to lodge that night, my landlord informed me, that the goods and books of an old gentlewoman lately deceased, who was upwards of one hundred years of age, the daughter of a clergyman, were that evening to be sold by auction. I went to the sale, where were assembled a parcel of rustics, two or three gentlemen, and as many clergymen. The auctioneer, who was the parish clerk, had prepared no catalogues, so every one looked of the book to be sold as it was handed about. I bought largely, and at length the gentlemen and the clergymen perceiving they had no share in the auction, withdrew. The auctioneer, in haste to make an end, put up all the pamphlets, manuscripts and sermons in four bundles. These I purchased, and then I ordered the whole to be sent immediately to my inn; and before I left the town, I packed the books, manuscripts, pamphlets and sermons up, and sent them to my own home.

Among these papers, my Lord, I found the following translation of *The Book of Jasher*, which I last summer communicated to your Lordship on a rumour of a new translation of the Bible. I own that till then it lay by me quite unregarded. Your Lordship upon perusal was pleased to approve of it, and to advise its publication as a work of great sincerity, plainness, and truth.

Your Lordship's remark I must not here omit, "That it was your opinion, *The Book of Jasher* ought to have been printed in the Bible before that of *Joshua*."

By a writing on the outside of the manuscript it should seem, that this translation was laid before our first reformers, because it says: "I have read *The Book of Jasher* twice over, and I much approve of it, as a piece of great antiquity and curiosity, but I cannot assent that it should be made a part of the canon of scripture." Signed
Wickliffe. I am

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant,

Nov. 25.
1751.

The Editor.

The words of **ALCUIN**, which are to be read before,
The Book of Jasher.

I Alcuin of Britain was minded to travel into the Holy Land, and into the province of Persia, in search of holy things, and to see the wonders of the East. And I took unto me two companions, who learned with me in the University of Oxford all those languages which the people of the East speak; namely Thomas of Malmesbury, and John of Huntingdon: and tho' we went as pilgrims, yet we took with us, silver and gold, and riches. And when we came unto Bristol we went into a ship bound for Rome, where we tarried six months, and learned more perfectly the old Persic language. Here the Pope blessed us, and said, Be of resolution, for the work ye have undertaken is of the Lord. From Rome we went to Naples, and tarried there three days, and from thence to Salerno, and from thence to Palermo. We went through Sicily, and took Melita in our way, where we abode six days. Hence we sailed for the Morea, visited Athens, Thessalonica, Constantinople, Philadelphia, Pergamus, Smyrna, Ephesus, Antioch, Coloss, Cappadocia, Alexandria, Damascus, Samaria, Bethel, and Jerusalem. Here we stayed six weeks, and the patriarch John received us kindly. And after having visited every part of the Holy Land, particularly Bethlehem, Hebron, mount Sinai, and the like, we crossed an arm of the Persic gulph at Bassora, and went in a boat to Bagdad, and from thence by land to Ardevil, and so to Casbin. Here we learnt from an Ascetic, that at the furthest part of Persia, in the city of Gazna, was a manuscript wrote in Hebrew of The Book of Jasher. He stimulated us to this undertaking, by observing, that The Book of Jasher was twice mentioned in the

Holy Bible, and twice appealed to as a book of testimony, and that it was extant before the writings, which are now stiled, The Books of Moses. I immediately undertook the journey, going by the way of Is-pahan, where we tarried three weeks; at length we arrived at Gazna. Here we laid aside the pilgrim's dress, and I hired a house, where we dwelt during our stay in this city, which was about three years.

I soon became acquainted with the keeper of the library, which belongs to the community of this city, and enquired of him concerning The Book of Jasher, which the recluse at Casbin had told us of. He said, he had read of such a manuscript in the catalogue of the library, but had never seen it, though he had been custos for forty-five years, but that it was locked up in a chest, and kept among the pieces of antiquities in a separate part of the library. As I lived nigh the custos, so I soon became familiar in his family; wherefore one day I took the opportunity to tell the custos, that I was very much obliged to him for the civilities he had shewn me, and particularly for the free access he had given me to the library; at the same time I made him a present of a wedge of gold, in value fifty pounds, which he readily accepted. The next time I went to the library, I begged the favour I might see The Book of Jasher. He then immediately turned to the catalogue, where it was written, The Volume of Jasher. He conducted me into a long room, where he shewed me the chest it was in. He now informed me, that the key was in the hands of the city-treasurer, and that, upon proper application, I might see the Volume. The custos introduced me to the treasurer, and related

THE TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

v

lated to him the substance of my request. He smiled, and said, he was not then at leisure, but he would consider of it. The next morning I sent John of Huntingdon to the treasurer with a wedge of gold of the value of one hundred pounds, by way of a present. By John, he sent me word, that he would meet me at the library about the ninth hour.

The time being come, the treasurer, the custos and I met at the library, when the treasurer having unlocked the chest shewed me the book, which he called, *The Volume of Jasher*. And then he locked the chest, and gave the key to the custos, telling him, that it was permitted that I might read in the Volume as often as I would, in the presence of the custos, and in the library.

The Book of Jasher is a great scroll, in width two foot three inches, and in length about nine foot. It is written in large characters, and exceedingly beautiful. The paper on which it is wrote is for thickness the eighth of an inch. To the touch it seemed as soft as velvet, and to the eye as white as snow.

The ark is of Mosaic work, finely and curiously wrought, but time and accidents have very much defaced the external ornaments of it.

After this I had free access to The Book of Jasher. The first thing which commanded my attention was a little scroll, intituled, *The story of the Volume of Jasher*. This informed me, that Jasher was born in Goshen, in the land of Egypt, that he was the son of the mighty Caleb, who was general of the Hebrews, whilst Moses was with Jethro in Midian; that on the embassy to Pharaoh, Jasher was appointed viceroy to Moses and Aaron, to bear the rod before them; that as he always accompanied Moses, Jasher must have the greatest

opportunities of knowing the facts he hath recorded; that from his great attachment to truth and uprightness he early received his name, *Yashar*; that it was a common saying in Israel of him, Behold the upright man! that Jasher wrote the volume which bears his name; that the ark was made in his life-time; that he put the volume therein with his own hands; that Jazer, the eldest son of Jasher, kept it during his life; that the princes of Judah successively were custodes thereof; that the ark and book in the last Babylonish captivity was taken from the Jews, and so fell into the hands of the Persian monarchs; and that the city of Gazna had been the place of its residence for some hundred years.

This excited in me a great desire of reading the volume itself. The work was divided into thirty-seven parts, or portions. One of these portions I read at this time, and so two every day until I had read the whole through. The custos then informed me, that there were in the two side boxes of the chest, certain notes or remarks, which some of the Antients had made on several passages contained in The Book of Jasher. These also I read.

I had now conceived a great desire of returning to England, with a transcript of The Book of Jasher, and of the Notes. Hereupon, I and my companions petitioned the commonalty of the city, that we might have the liberty of taking a transcript thereof. Here we were opposed by the treasurer, and our petition was rejected. Some months after this, it came into my mind, that we would petition, to have leave to make an English translation of the said Book and Notes. Accordingly, one morning, having drawn up the petition, I sent John of Huntingdon with it, and a wedge of gold to the treasurer, with a letter desiring

giving his opinion of it. After some days, I received for answer, that he had considered of my request, and would shortly relate the affair to the recorder of the city, and take his opinion thereon. Upon this, I dispatched Thomas of Malmesbury with a wedge of gold as a present to the recorder, together with a copy of the petition I had sent the treasurer. A few days after this I received directions from the recorder to attend the next court, and then our petition was granted. The order of court ran thus: We grant unto Alcuin and his two assistants, full liberty and power of translating out of the original Hebrew, The Volume of Jasher, with the Notes appertaining thereto, now contained in a chest in the public library of Gazna into English, and into no other language whatever. And we likewise order, that the said English translation be made in the library, and in the presence of the custos at such times of the day as shall be most convenient to the said custos.

We soon began the translation in this manner: The manuscript was laid on a table, round which the custos and we sat. The custos opened the volume, and we read the first part or portion, and were permitted to set it down in the original; from whence we made each a translation, and then the custos burnt the part we had so transcribed. And this was the manner in which we proceeded, but the custos would not suffer us to carry home any of our papers.

In fine, after the labour of near a year and six months, we completed the translation of the Book and Notes, to which translation this is prefixed. The treasurer and custos burnt all other papers wrote by either

of us, and took from us the translation we had made.

In this dilemma we remained for some time, till by a proper application, and by petitioning the court a second time, after having been solemnly sworn, that we had taken no other copy, nor were possessed of any other papers, besides that translation of The Volume of Jasher, then before the court, the translation was delivered to us, with a charge, that we should not let any person take a copy thereof in any place we passed through in our return to England. Which we solemnly promised; and then we were dismissed, with proper credentials for our return through Persia.

We now re-assumed the pilgrims dress, and after a stay of almost three years, left Gazna, and came to Ispahan, from thence to Casbin, and so back to Rome. Here we stayed some time, and I had an audience of the Pope, when I related to his Holiness, that I had seen The Book of Jasher, spoken of in Joshua, and in the Second Book of Samuel. The holy father, who was now ninety-five years of age, turned to the places I referred to, and then cried out, I have lived to the days of forgetfulness.

After a short stay at Rome we sailed for England, and landed at Bristol, after we had been absent seven years.

Some years after my arrival, I related this adventure to several, and showed them the work, who advised me not to suffer a copy of it to fall into the hands of the stationer, lest I should incur the displeasure of the purple. Being now grown old and infirm, I have left it, among other papers, to a clergyman in Yorkshire.

Alcuin.

VARIOUS READINGS.

Chap. i. ver. 1. **I**N the head of time.
 6. the one that did rule the light, the other that did rule whilst it was dark.
 19. and who made the harp and the organ.
 20. in his time men began, &c.

Chap. ii. ver. 2. and who ventured to travel, &c.
 12. and why should we abolish the customs, &c.

Chap. iii. ver. 2. have deviated from their paths.
 10. were at variance.
 13. shall inherit after me.
 20. Out of thee shall come forth a great nation.
 26. a great dearth of grain in that land.
 27. was advanced in Egypt.

Chap. v. ver. 8. that opened the womb.

Chap. vi. ver. 7. neither will we bow down to Pharaoh one day more.
 9. for he had been gone out of the land, &c.
 17. seemed as strangers to Moses.
 22. behold our deliverance is in him.

Chap. vii. ver. 8. I never before heard of the sayings of your fathers.

Chap. viii. ver. 13. that I am a messenger to you.
 19. had left off to be so.

Chap. ix. ver. 16. And the people were fore-ly vexed.

Chap. x. ver. 8. the Jacobites יַעֲקֹבִי are not able to fly from us.
 11. wherefore hast thou thus deceitfully undertaken to lead us out of Egypt.
 12. unto the enemies of circumcision.
 29. between two straits.

Chap. xi. ver. 3. And the sun and the moon gave their light whilst these things were done.

Chap. xii. ver. 18. Seeing ye will not be able to find food for them in the desert.
 21. and when we shall depart from hence we know not.

Chap. xiv. ver. 2. whom Moses had caused to return.
 3. and they pitched their tents at the foot of mount Horeb.
 5. this my daughter Zipporah thou hast taken to be thy wife.
 26. and his name shall stink.
 32. shall find useful.

Chap. xvi. ver. 4. even according to the plan Jethro had laid down.

Chap. xvii. ver. 2. wise men to hear and speak for you.
 20. his spirit was moved within him.

Chap.

Chap. xviii. ver. 7. But Aaron stood aghast.

Chap. xxix. ver. 2. let no man escape alive.

Chap. xxi. ver. 2. Is not good for the commonweal of Israel.

Chap. xxx. ver. 11. Sun rest thou on Gibeon,
and shine thou moon on
the valley of Ajalon.

3. Labour, industry, pains-taking will they be alien to.

Chap. xxxii. 4. Cut off the flesh of thy fore-
skin, then shall you beget
a son.

5. Are not all the tribes of Israel sanctified?

7. Take sharp knives.

7. the words of evil you now speak.

10. after he cometh out of the womb.

10. Depart from Korah, and those that are with him.

14. and they fled every one to his dwelling.

Chap. xxxiii. 8. and let them ask of them
the reason for their so doing.

Chap. xxii. ver. 4. were familiar with the sons of Israel.

9. and behold they were well pleasing to the eye.

Chap. xxiii. ver. 24. the thoughts of the evil one against this people.

19. Wherefore have ye built this tabernacle and this altar? Surely to defy Joshua and the elders of Israel.

Chap. xxiv. ver. 4. to bring a description of the land.

17. turned away the anger of Phinehas, &c.

6. their dwellings shall you number.

12. Caleb hath the truth in him.

Chap. xxxiv. 7. were too strong for them.

Chap. xxvi. ver. 17. That Judah may be many in number.

10. Who can command the Reubenites, the Gadites, and all the people of Israel to go up to the war.

Chap. xxvii. ver. 12. in whom dwelt discernment.

Chap. xxxv. 2. Who shall be judge in Israel?

14. Be not angry, O king.

18. then should we be able to drive out the nations.

15. Whom thou doth not worship, is on their side.

Chap. xxxvi. 5. It seemeth well unto me, that ye gather yourselves together at Bethel, that I and the elders of Israel may make an agreement with you.

20. It is the advice of one who has discovered our nakedness.

Chap. xxviii. ver. 10. And the bridge.

Chap. xxxvii. 16. And there was a great want of grain in Canaan.

19. and it became separated to holy uses.

17. seated Joseph on his right hand.

25. put an end to the designs of Achan.

¶ The Book of JASHER.^I

^I Heb. The Upright.

CHAP. I.

¹ The formation of the world; ³ the light shineth; ⁷ the earth is productive; ¹¹ the creation of man; ¹³ the birth of Cain and Abel; ¹⁷ of Enoch; ²³ the death of Adam.

A. M.

^a I.
^a Heb. the prime.
^b Heb. the desert.
^c Heb. the atoms.
^d Heb. confused mass of matter.

^e Heb. the flame; Or, burning.
^f Heb. the bottomless pit.



WHILST it was the beginning: darkness overspread the face of nature.

² And the æther moved: upon the surface of the ^d chaos.

³ And it came to pass, that a great light shone forth from the firmament: and enlightened the abyss.

⁴ And the abyss fled before the face of the light: and divided between the light and the darkness.

⁵ So that the face of nature was formed: a second time.

⁶ And behold there appeared in the firmament two great lights: the one to rule the light, and the other to rule the darkness.

⁷ And the ground brought forth grass: the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree after his kind.

⁸ And every beast after his kind: and every thing that creepeth after their kind.

⁹ And the waters brought forth the moving creature after their kind.

¹⁰ And the æther brought forth every winged fowl after his kind.

¹¹ ¶ And when all these things were ^b fulfilled: behold ¹ JEHOVAH appeared in Eden, and created man, and made him to be an image of his own eternity.

¹² And to him was given power and ^m lordship over all living creatures: and over every herb, and over every tree of the field.

¹³ And it came to pass, in process of time, that the man conceived, and brought forth ⁿ Cain: and he conceived again and brought forth his brother ^o Abel.

¹⁴ And Cain was the first man who tilled the ground:

¹⁵ And

A. M.

¹.

² Heb. the earth; Or, nature.

^h Heb. finished.

ⁱ Heb. I am that I am.

^k Heb. delighted.

^l Heb. likeness.

^m Heb. rule.

ⁿ Heb. the possessed.

^o Heb. the feeder.

A. M.

61.

15 And Abel was a feeder of sheep.

16 And Cain went out and dwelt on the east of Eden : in the land of ^p Nod.^p Heb. peregrination.^q Heb. the civilized.^r Heb. the meanspirited.
^s Heb. the experienced.17 And Cain conceived, and bare ^t Enoch : then did men begin to build cities.18 And unto ^u Lamech was born ^v Jabel : he was the first who taught men to build tents.^w Heb. the zealous.19 And unto Lamech also was born ^x Tubal-Cain : he was the first who wrought in brass and iron, and who builded up the ^y harp and the organ.^z Heb. all kinds of music.^a Heb. the regular.^b Heb. the dependant.20 And ^c Seth conceived, and bare ^d Enos : then began men by name to call on the Lord.^e Heb. the flesh.21 And all the days of the life of ^f Adam : there was rest and peace, and quiet unto all men.

22 For they listened unto all things : concerning which he spake unto them.

930.

23 And Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years : and he died.

C H A P. II.

¹ The birth of Noah ; ² he first buildeth the ship ; ⁴ all the people speak one language ; ⁸ Noah dies ; ¹⁰ Peleg is born ; ¹¹ he divideth the land ; ¹³ Nimrod opposeth Peleg, and the people are dispersed.

1056.

^g Heb. the soil of death.^h Heb. rest.

ⁱ And Lamech, the son of ^j Methuselah, conceived : and bare ^k Noah.

2 And Noah was the first who builded the ship : and who sojourned upon the great waters.

3 And he was the father of those who go down into the deep : and who occupy themselves in much water.

4 At this time the whole was of one ^l lip, and of one word : and there was peace unto all.

A. M.

1537.

5 ¶ And it came to pass, that men were multiplied before the face of the earth : and they became mighty, and men of renown.

6 And ^m Japhet, and his sons, and his sons sons, said unto Noah : Behold, thou art our ⁿ father ! permit us, we beseech thee, seeing the land is not able to bear us, our children, and our herds, and our flocks, to pass over and dwell in the plain of ^o Shinar.^p Heb. the persuader.^q Heb. ruler.

7 And Noah said, Be it unto you, as ye list : only this thing I command ye, that ye worship the God of your fathers, observing all things which ye have received.

^r Heb. vigilance.

8 And Noah lived nine hundred and thirty years : and he died.

2010.

9 And from these men of renown rose up great nations : by whom the isles of the ^s Gentiles were peopled.^t Or, strangers.10 ¶ And it came to pass, in process of time, that there stood up among men : ^u Peleg, the son of ^v Eber.

1729.

^w Heb. the divider.^x Heb. the wrathful.

11 It

A. M.
1750.

11 It was he who first invented the hedge and ditch, the wall and bulwark: and who by lot divided the lands among his brethren.

* Heb. the headstrong.

12 And * Nimrod said, Wherefore should we obey Peleg: and why should we forsake the customs of our forefathers.

13 And the people hearkened unto him: for Nimrod was a mighty hunter, and a man of renown.

14 And there arose a great strife among the people: and they were scattered upon the earth.

15 And Nimrod builded him cities: and he gathered together the scattered of the land.

CHAP. III.

1 Abraham and Sarah; 4 he leaves Canaan; 6 goes into Egypt; 8 his riches; 11 removes to Mamre; 16 circumcises himself; 20 Sarah dissuades him from slaying his son Isaac; 22 his death; 24 Isaac dies; 27 a famine in Canaan; 31 Pharaoh sends for Jacob into Egypt; 34 Jacob goes; 36 his death.

2093.
* Heb. the multitude.
* Heb. the discontented.
* Heb. the fruitful.

1 **A**Nd * Abraham was the son of * Terah: and * Sarah was the wife of Abraham.

2 And Abraham said, Lo, the nations are full of confusion: and the inhabitants of the earth have perverted their ways.

3 Thus saith Abraham the son of Terah, I have spied iniquity among the Gentiles: and evil among the sons of Cain.

A. M.
2098.

4 And Abraham departed from his brethren, and passed through the land of * Canaan: he and his wife, and he pitched his tent on the plain of * Moriah.

* Heb. delightful.

* Heb. morose.

5 And as he journeyed still on to the south, he heard a voice saying unto him: 'I will make of thee a great nation.

* Heb. Out of thee shall come forth a great nation.

6 ¶ And Abraham went into * Egypt: and he abode there, and found favour with * Pharaoh.

* Heb. bondage.

* Heb. the unwilling.

7 And Pharaoh gave unto Abraham sheep and oxen: and he-asses and she-asses, and men-servants and maid-servants.

8 And Abraham was rich in cattel, and in men-servants and maid-servants, and in silver and gold: and Abraham went up out of Egypt, even unto * Bethel did he go.

* Heb. house of God.

9 And the herds and possessions of Abraham encreased exceedingly: so that the * land was not able to bear them.

* Heb. spot.

10 Inſomuch that the ſervants of Abraham: and the ſervants of * Lot ſtrove together.

* Heb. the diſtreſſed.

11 Then Abraham aroſe, his wife, his ſervants and his flocks: and he removed his tent, and he came and dwelt

A. M. in the plain of "Mamre, nigh
2103. unto "Hebron.

^m Heb. rebel-
lion.
^a Heb. charm.

12 ¶ Now so it came to
pass: that Sarah Abraham's
wife had not brought forth
her first born.

13 And Abraham com-
plained, and said; Unto me
thou hast not given an heir:
lo! the stranger born in my
house shall rule after me.

14 And Abraham heard a
voice saying unto him, Cir-
cumcise the flesh of thy fore-
skin: for therefore art thou
barren.

15 And Abraham did so:
and he went in unto Sarah,
and she conceived, and bore
a son, and he called his name
"Isaac.

^a Heb. the
laugh.

16 And Abraham was nine-
ty and nine years old: when he
circumcised the flesh of his
foreskin.

17 And Abraham remov-
ed from the plains of Mamre:
and went and dwelt between
"Kadesh and "Shur.

^a Heb. holy.
^b Heb. strong.

18 And Abraham was stric-
ken in years: and "his mind
failed him.

^c Or, was de-
lirious.

19 And when Isaac was
twenty and five years old, A-
braham heard a voice, saying:
Take thy son, and slay him,
and offer him up a burnt-of-
fering in the land, wherein he
was born.

20 And Sarah spake unto
Abraham and said, The ho-
ly voice hath not so spoken:
for remember thou the words

of that voice which said unto
thee, I will make of thee a
great nation.

21 And Abraham repented
him of the evil he purposed to
do unto his son: his only son
Isaac.

22 And Abraham died, and
was buried: even in the place
where Sarah his wife was bu-
ried, there was he buried al-
so.

A. M.
2144.

23 ¶ And Isaac begat "Ja-
cob of "Rebecca his wife.

^a Heb. the
supplanter.
^b Heb. the
glutted.

24 And it came to pass, in
process of time, that Isaac was
gathered unto his fathers: and
Jacob encreased in men-ser-
vants, and in maid-servants,
and in sheep, and in oxen, in
be-asses and in she-asses, and
in silver and in gold.

25 And Jacob dwelt in the
land of Canaan.

26 ¶ And it came to pass,
after many days were fulfill-
ed: that there was a great fa-
mine in that land.

2292.

27 And "Joseph one of the
sons of Jacob: in those days
ministred in Egypt.

^a Heb. the
added.

28 And Jacob said unto his
sons: Arise, go down into E-
gypt, and buy ye corn for us,
your wives, and your little
ones, that we and they may
live, and not die.

29 And they saddled their
asses: and they journeyed in-
to Egypt, and they hastened
to do according to all that Ja-
cob had spoken, for the fa-
mine was sore in the land.

30 And

A. M.

2299.

30 And Joseph interceded for his brethren: and Pharaoh said unto the sons of Jacob, Lade ye your beasts, and return ye into the land of Canaan.

31 And say ye unto your father: Thus saith Pharaoh king of Egypt, Come untome, ye, your wives, your sons and your daughters, and your little ones; and ye shall dwell in the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat of the^{*}fat of the land.

^{*} Heb. the best food.

32 And they returned into Canaan: and they told unto Jacob their father all those things which Pharaoh had commanded them.

33 And Jacob accepted the offer that Pharaoh had made him: because the famine was sore in the land of Canaan.

34 And Jacob delayed not, but came down: he and his family into Egypt.

^{*} Heb. nigh.

35 And Pharaoh gave him the land of^{*}Goshen to dwell in: which was near.

2315.

36 And Jacob died in the land of Goshen: in the land of Egypt.

CHAP. IV.

2 *The Israelites encrease; 4 they want to go into Canaan; 6 Pharaoh will not let them go; 13 Zaphnath's counsel; 20 the Israelites are taxed.*

1 **A**ND the children of Israel sojourned in the land of Egypt many years:

after the death of Jacob their father.

A. M.

2335.

2 And it came to pass in process of time, that they increased abundantly, and they waxed mighty: and the land of Goshen were filled with them.

3 And they sent messengers unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, saying:

4 The land in which we dwell is not able to bear us, our children, our flocks and our cattle: wherefore, we pray thee, suffer us to return into the land of Canaan, from whence we came out.

5 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, even unto the wisemen of his kingdom:

6 How is this, that the children of Jacob say unto us, Suffer us to return into the land of Canaan from whence we came out?

7 Are they not the subjects of the Egyptians? have we not bought them with a price?

8 And the wisemen answered Pharaoh, and said: When the famine was sore in the land of Canaan, thy father's father gave unto Jacob and his children the land of Goshen for to dwell in, and with the fat of Egypt were they sustained.

9 Now, know O king, in those days, thy father's father advanced one Joseph an^{*}Hebrew: who was the son of Jacob.

^{*} Heb. the alien.

10 And

A. M.

2375.

^b Heb. the exactor.

^c Heb. rebell.

^d Chald. the hard.

^e Heb. go in.

10 And he was a^b stranger in the land of Egypt: and he bought Egypt with a price.

11 And Pharaoh said, Have we nourished them: and shall they^c now turn up the heel against us?

12 And ^d Zaphnah stood forth, and said: Harken unto me, O Pharaoh, king of Egypt, let thy servant speak, let the words of my mouth find favour before thee.

13 And Zaphnah said, The children of Jacob are become a great people for number: and they increase daily, and they thirst after dominion.

14 And peradventure it shall come to pass, that they shall^e join themselves unto our enemies: and fight against us, and slay us, and take away from us our inheritance.

15 Send therefore unto Goshen, even unto the children of Jacob, saying, Ye shall number the males according to your tribes, from him that is able to go forth to battle, even to the hoary head: the females also ye shall number, ye shall number the children of Jacob both males and females.

16 And Pharaoh did so: and Pharaoh said: Behold the sons of Jacob are more in number than my own people.

17 Up now, let us set over them task-masters: for the land of Egypt groaneth, it is

heavy laden, it bendeth under its burthen.

18 Now the land of Egypt gave of its increase unto Pharaoh: the fifth part thereof.

19 And Pharaoh said, Of the increase of the land of Egypt shall ye every year bring into my storehouses: the tenth part thereof.

20 And of the increase of the land of Goshen shall the children of Jacob bring unto Pithom and^e Raamses year by year the tenth part thereof: without waste shall they bring it.

21 So the Egyptians were eased of their burthens: and the children of Israel were grievously oppressed.

22 ¶ All these things which I Jasher have written, received I from^b Caleb my father: yea, even from^c Hezron my father's father, and from^d Azuba who travailed with me.

A. M.

2377.

^f Heb. accomplished.

^g Heb. threatening.

^h Heb. the hearty.

ⁱ Heb. the arrow of joy.

^k Heb. the chaste.

CHAP. V.

⁴ Pharaoh again oppresses the Israelites; ⁶ he orders the males of the Hebrews to be killed; ⁸ Moses is born; ¹³ Pharaoh's daughter intercedeth for the Hebrew males; ¹⁴ Moses becomes her son.

1 **T**Hese are the words of Jasher: the son of Caleb by Azuba.

2 And it came to pass in process of time: that the children of Israel were multiplied exceedingly.

2385.

^a Heb. prevailing.

3 And

A. M.

2395.

3 And they said one unto the other, Shall we bow down and serve the Egyptians: seeing we are become more, and mightier than they.

4 And the sayings of the children of Israel were told unto Pharaoh: and he said, They are wanton, they lift up the heel; set over them more task-masters.

5 And they did so; but it availed not: for the more the house of Jacob was afflicted, the more they increased and multiplied.

6 And Pharaoh was greatly vexed, and he said, This people will eat us up: wherefore ye shall slay every male of the Hebrews that cometh out of the womb, in the day that he is born shall he surely die.

7 Now when the daughter of Pharaoh heard of these things: she sought to turn away the evil imaginations of her father against the males of the children of Israel.

8 And it came to pass, that ^bMoses the son of ^cAmram by ^dJochebed his wife, was the first male that came out of the womb: after the decree of Pharaoh king of Egypt to slay all the males of the Hebrews.

9 And Jochebed the mother of Moses, with ^eMiriam his sister, came unto Pharaoh's daughter: and Jochebed said, Behold here the son of thy handmaid!

^b Heb. drawn from the water.

^c Heb. the robust.

^d Heb. the comely.

^e Heb. the praiser.

10 And Pharaoh's daughter said, What wist ye?

11 And they said, Thy father hath commanded that this infant be slain: yea, and that all the Hebrew males as soon as they are born be slain also.

12 And Pharaoh's daughter said, Give unto me the child. And they did so. And she said, This shall be my son.

13 And it came to pass, that the wrath of Pharaoh was turned away from slaying the males of the Hebrews.

14 And the child Moses grew and increased in stature: and was learned in all the magic of the Egyptians.

A. M.

2433.

CHAP. VI.

3 Moses leaves Egypt, and goes into Goshen; 5 proposes to his brethren to shake off the Egyptian yoke; 8 Pharaoh hears of this; 10 Moses flies into Midian; 12 Caleb invents the bow; 14 Moses comes into Goshen; 18 the Hebrews reprove Moses; 21 their burdens.

1 **A**ND it came to pass in those days, that Pharaoh died: and the daughter of Pharaoh died also.

2 And there arose up a king who knew not Moses: neither regarded he the children of Israel.

3 ¶ When all these things were accomplished, Moses came up out of Egypt: and he sojourned with his brethren in the land of Goshen.

2473.

4 And

A. M.
2473.

4 And Moses saw the oppression of the Egyptians, wherewith they oppressed his brethren: and it grieved him to the heart.

5 And he said unto his brethren, Let us shake off the yoke of the Egyptians: let us cast away their bondage from us.

6 We be more in number than the people of Egypt, the lesser should always bow down and serve the greater: as it is written in the prophecy of Jacob our father.

7 The fifth part of the increase of our lands will we not give the Egyptians: neither will we serve Pharaoh any longer.

8 Now when it was told Pharaoh, That Moses stirred up the people: and made them uneasy under their burthens.

9 That Pharaoh sent messengers unto Moses, but they found him not: for he had fled out of the land of Goshen from the face of Pharaoh, into the land of Midian.

10 And Moses abode with Jethro, the prince of Midian: and Moses took to wife, Zipporah the daughter of Jethro. And he dwelt with him thirty and nine years.

11 ¶ And it came to pass after Moses had fled from the face of Pharaoh: and had left his brethren in the land of Goshen.

12 That Caleb the son of Hezron invented the bow: for he was a mighty man, and a man of renown.

13 He taught the children of Jacob to shoot in the bow: he learnt his brethren to prepare themselves for the battle.

14 ¶ And Moses was eighty years old: and it was told unto him, saying, Pharaoh who sought thy life is dead.

15 And Moses sent Ger-shon his son before his face: and Moses came, he and his wife into the land of Goshen, even to his brethren did he come.

16 And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and said, Whilst I sojourned in the land of Midian, I heard a voice saying unto me: Arise, go up unto thy brethren, for I will by thy hand bring back the children of Jacob, and they shall possess the land of Canaan from whence they came out.

17 And the elders of the children of Israel knew not Moses: neither regarded they the words of his mouth.

18 And they said unto Moses, Thou hast polluted the house of Jacob: for lo! thou hast taken to wife one who is not an Israelite.

19 And Moses said: I have sinned.

20 And Moses put away Zipporah and her children: and

A. M.
2488.

2512.

* Heb. the peregrine.

* Heb. judging.

* Heb. the excellent.

* Heb. the cause of contention.

2488.

* Or, I have deviated.

A. M.
2513.

and they returned unto Jethro in the land of Midian.

21 ¶ Then stood forth Caleb, and said, The Egyptians have laid on us great weights, burthens that we are not able to bear: and the necks of the people are fore through the pressure thereof.

22 Let us therefore hearken unto the words of Moses: peradventure salvation is on his right hand.

23 For this fifty years have we served with great toil the Egyptians, with the sweat of our brows we have born heavy burthens: and they have not touched them with the little-finger.

24 And Moses said, Trust in the Lord God of your fathers, for he will bring you up out of the affliction wherewith the Egyptians oppress you: unto the land of our father Jacob, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

25 A land whereon my feet have stood: and mine eyes have seen.

26 That ye may be a great people: a people whose number may be as the stars in the firmament, and as the sand upon the sea-shore.

27 Wherefore I will go unto Pharaoh: peradventure he will let the children of Israel go up out of the land of Egypt unto the land of Canaan, even unto the heritage of our forefathers.

CHAP. VII.

A. M.

2513.

2 Moses goes unto Pharaoh; 6 desires that he might lead the Hebrews into the land of Canaan; 10 Pharaoh straitens the Hebrews; 16 they are angry with Moses and Aaron.

1 **A**ND it came to pass, when the people saw all the signs and the wonders which Moses wrought in the sight of all Israel: in the presence of the congregation, that they believed.

2 And Moses said unto the elders of Israel: Send also with me Aaron my brother, that he may be a spokesman for me, and for you.

3 And also Jasher the son of Caleb: that he may bear the rod before us.

4 And the elders of Israel said unto Aaron, and unto Jasher: Go, and may ye and all the children of Jacob find favour in the sight of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

5 Then went Moses unto Pharaoh, and said, Four score and one years have we served thee: yea, with rigorous servitude have bowed down our necks unto thee.

6 And behold the land of Goshen is not able to bear us: the number of thy servants encrease daily, wherefore let us now pass through the land of Egypt unto the wilderness that we may go and sojourn in the land of Canaan, from whence we came out.

C

7 For

* Heb. the eloquent.

A. M.

2513.

7 For behold, O Pharaoh! thus hath said our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: The land of Canaan shall be thine inheritance, it shall be the dwelling of your sons, your sons sons, and your posterity for ever.

8 And Pharaoh said, Are ye come hither to mock me? I regard not the prophecies of your fathers: neither will I let the children of Israel go up out of the land.

9 The house of Jacob are the nurture of the Egyptians: wherefore do ye Moses and Aaron dissuade the people from their duty.

10 ¶ Then Pharaoh called unto him the task-masters, whom he had set over the children of Israel, and he said unto them, Ye are negligent: Bring ye unto my treasure-cities, Pithom and Raamses, the fifth of the increase of the land of Goshen, by the sixth day; ye shall bring it to the full tale thereof.

11 And the task-masters did as Pharaoh had commanded: and they pressed sore the officers of the children of Israel.

12 And they were straitened for time: because the commandment of Pharaoh was urgent.

13 And they cried unto Pharaoh, and said, Give unto thy servants other six days: so shall we be able to obey thy voice, O Pharaoh!

A. M.

2513.

14 But Pharaoh answered, I will not: hasten therefore, and bring of the increase of your lands, your flocks, and your herds, even the fifth part of them shall ye bring unto Pithom and Raamses.

15 And as they departed, the officers of the children of Israel met Moses and Aaron in the way: and they said unto them,

16 Pharaoh will not hear us, neither regardeth he the words of our forefathers, neither hath the words of you Moses and Aaron any power over him: it had been better for us you had never gone forth, and spake unto him.

17 And Moses was angry: because of the sayings of the officers of the children of Israel, and Moses said,

18 Wherefore should Pharaoh evil intreat the children of Israel?

CHAP. VIII.

2 Moses persuades the people to go out of Egypt; 8 goes again to Pharaoh; 12 Moses his rod; 17 becomes a serpent; 23 turns the river into blood; 25 the river brings forth frogs; 30 Pharaoh will not let the Hebrews go.

1 **A**ND it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses assembled together the sons of 'Reuben, 'Simeon, 'Levi, 'Gershon, 'Kohath, 'Merari, 'Izhar, 'Uzziel, and 'Korah: even

^a Heb. I have seen my son.

^b Heb. the attentive.

^c Heb. copulated.

^d Heb. assembled.

^e Heb. the peevish.

^f Heb. bright.

^g Heb. the glory of God.

^h Heb. bald.

A. M. even the heads of the families
2513. of the children of Israel.

2 And Moses said unto them,
The heart of Pharaoh is set against us: and it cometh to pass, when we speak unto him to go three days journey into the wilderness that he oppresseth us sore.

3 And now, O elders of Israel, ye this day bare me witness, how that our fathers, even Abraham, Isaac and Jacob dwelt in the land of Canaan, and possessed the same.

4 And they said unto us: It is a land that floweth with milk and honey.

5 And this we ourselves know, that the compass of it will receive us, our wives, our children and our flocks.

6 Remember also the words which Jacob spake unto us, when as yet he was with us: Ye shall go up and dwell in the land of your fathers.

7 And the heads of the families of the children of Israel said unto Moses: Go unto Pharaoh in our names, in the names of the elders of the house of Jacob.

8 ¶ And Moses went unto Pharaoh: and Pharaoh was walking in his garden, by the river side, and his wisemen were with him.

9 And Moses said unto Pharaoh, Let us, we pray thee, go through the land of Egypt unto the wilderness: that we may serve the Lord.

10 And Pharaoh answered and said: Surely to make a nation of thy people, that thou mayest rule over them, art thou come! From whence art thou?

11 And Moses spake unto Pharaoh and said, The Lord hath sent me: out of Midian am I come.

12 And Pharaoh said unto Moses, What meanest that rod that is born before you Moses, and before you Aaron?

13 And Moses spake out aloud unto Pharaoh, and said, Thus saith the Lord: It is the wand and token of my power, whereby you and all the Egyptians shall know that I am sent unto you.

14 And Pharaoh was seated under a pavilion, he and his wisemen: and Moses, Aaron, and Japheth stood there also.

15 And Pharaoh said: Is that the rod, of which I have been told, that thou Moses did throw it upon the earth, before the elders of Israel, and it became as a serpent?

16 And Moses said, O Pharaoh! it came to pass as thou hast spoken.

17 And the heart of Pharaoh was as fast: and Moses took the rod, and he threw it down before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and the rod became as a serpent.

18 Then the wisemen, the magicians and forcerers of Egypt, threw down their rods

A. M.
2513.

A. M. before Pharaoh : and their rods
2513. became as serpents.

19 But the rod of Moses was as a serpent : when the rods of the magicians and forcerers were not so.

20 ¶ And it came to pass on the morning of the next day : as Pharaoh walked by the river side, Moses spake unto Pharaoh, and said,

21 Lo ! this will do, I will smite this river which thou seekest, with this rod : and the water thereof shall become as blood, and all the moving creature therein shall die, and the river shall stink.

22 And Pharaoh said unto Moses, If thou canst do this thing : thou art able to be a lawgiver to and a ruler over thy people.

23 And Moses smote the river with his rod, and the river was as blood : and the magicians did so.

24 And Pharaoh laughed at Moses.

25 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses smote the river, and it brought forth frogs in abundance : so that they crawled upon the banks thereof.

26 And the magicians and forcerers of Egypt with their rods smote the river : and it brought forth frogs.

27 And Pharaoh spake unto Moses, and said : Where are now thy wonders, seeing my servants do the like ?

28 And Moses went out from before the face of Pharaoh.

29 ¶ And Moses returned into the land of Goshen, and he called for the elders of Israel : and he told them all that he had done in Egypt.

30 And that Pharaoh would not let them from their burthens to go through the land of Egypt into the land of Canaan : as our fathers had promised unto us and unto our seed for ever.

CHAP. IX.

1 *Caleb proposes to fight their way through Egypt ; 9 which is told Pharaoh ; 11 who is willing to let them go on certain conditions ; 19 the Hebrews sell their possessions to the Egyptians ; 23 whom they spoil ; 26 the Hebrews go out armed.*

1 **A**Nd in those days it came to pass, that Caleb the son of Hezron stood up before the assembly of the children of Israel, and he said unto them :

2 Now know ye, that Pharaoh and his servants will not let us go peaceably through Egypt unto the promised land.

3 Are the Egyptians to compare with us ? Can they bend the bow ? Can they set forth the battle ?

4 Are not they backsliders ? Are they not weak ? Do not they delight in ease and in soft raiment ?

5 Where-

A. M.
2513.

5 Wherefore thus saith Caleb the son of Hezron: Up, let us take the bow, and on the morrow let us enter the land of Egypt to pass through it to the land of our father Jacob.

6 And let no man do hurt unto the Egyptians: unless Pharaoh and his servants should seek to slay us.

7 And the counsel of Caleb was pleasing unto all the disciples of the bow: who are the followers of the son of Hezron.

8 And Moses said, Caleb the son of Hezron hath well spoken: By midnight on the morrow will we and all the host of Israel assay to go up out of the land of Egypt.

9 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that these things were told unto Pharaoh: and unto those that were with him.

10 And the wisemen of Egypt said unto Pharaoh: Let the Hebrews go, lest peradventure they slay us, our wives and our children, and take away the land from us.

11 Then Pharaoh called for Moses, and for all the elders of the children of Israel, and he said unto them, I will let you, your wives, and your children go: only your flocks and your herds they you shall leave behind; so shall you go up out of the land.

12 And Moses said, How then shall the people be sustained as they pass through

Egypt, and when they come into the wilderness: if our flocks and our herds go not with us.

13 And Pharaoh said, As you pass through the land of Egypt, I will command my servants: and they shall lodge you by night, and provide food for you by day.

14 Wherefore shall ye leave your flocks, and your herds, and the increase of your lands behind ye: then shall ye pass through the land of Egypt, and no one shall fight against you.

15 Seeing if you lead your flocks and your herds into the wilderness: there must they perish in the desert.

16 And Moses went forth from Pharaoh, and spake unto the children of Israel, saying, Pharaoh will let us go, our wives, and our children: but our flocks, and our herds, and the increase of our lands must we leave behind us in the land of Goshen. And the people were moved.

17 ¶ Then spake Moses, and the elders of Israel unto Pharaoh, and said: Thy people shall buy our flocks, and our herds, and the increase of our lands with a price, that we may have wherewith to purchase necessities of thy servants the Egyptians, as we pass through thy land.

18 And Pharaoh said, Now will I let the people go: only this

A. M.
2513.

A. M. this shall you observe, That
2513. my people shall give you for
your flocks, and for your cat-
tle, and for the increase of
your lands, such pieces of mo-
ney as they shall think proper,
and you shall sell unto them all
your possessions.

19 And Moses and the el-
ders sold unto the Egyptians on
a set-day, even all that they
had: their cattle, their houses,
the fruit of the ground; yea,
all the worth of the children
of Israel.

20 Only Miriam begged of
the Egyptians a male and a fe-
male of every flock, and of e-
very herd: and of every fowl,
and of every beast.

21 ¶ And it came to pass,
that the flocks, and the herds,
and the possessions of the chil-
dren of Israel were so great in
number, that the Egyptians
lacked money to make good
the purchase thereof.

22 And the Egyptians said
unto their wives, and unto
their daughters: Give unto us
your ear-rings, your jewels of
silver, and your jewels of gold,
that we may pay unto the He-
brews that which we owe un-
to them.

23 And the price thereof
spoiled the Egyptians.

24 ¶ And it came to pass,
when the sale was over, that
Moses hastened the children
of Israel to go up out of the
land of Egypt.

25 And the trumpet sound-

ed about midnight: and the
children of Israel hastened
with great haste to go up out
of Egypt.

26 And Caleb spake in the
ears of the people, and he said,
Let every man take his bow in
his hand: so shall Israel go up
out of the land of bondage
with an out-stretched arm.

27 And they did so: and
great fear fell upon all the E-
gyptians.

CHAP. X.

1 *The Hebrews deceive the Eyp-
tians; 5 Pharaoh pursues them;
11 The Israelites murmur against
Moses; 15 the people send Ja-
sher to Pharaoh; 30 resolve to
pass the Red Sea.*

1 **N**OW it came to pass on
the morrow, that the
Egyptians began to count the
flocks, and the herds, and the
possessions of the children of
Israel, which they had sold
unto the Egyptians: and be-
hold there lacked in the tale
thereof.

2 Then the people of E-
gypt cried unto Pharaoh, and
said: We have done wrong,
in letting the children of Jacob
our nuture go away from serv-
ing thee and thy people.

3 For lo! the Hebrews
have sold unto us more in
number of their flocks, and
their herds, and their posses-
sions than they had.

4 And Pharaoh said, Arise,
let us pursue after them, per-
adventure

A. M.
2513.

A. M. 2513. adventure we shall overtake them before they have gotten into the wilderness.

^a Heb. strong. 5 And Pharaoh and the Egyptians pursued after the children of Israel: even unto them in the wilderness at the extremity of the Red Sea.

6 ¶ Now it came to pass, when Moses perceived, that Pharaoh pursued after the Israelites by the way of the wilderness, that he turned off, and he and all Israel came unto ^b Baal-zephon, which is on this side of the Red Sea.

7 And it was told unto Pharaoh, that Moses and the Hebrews had fled by the way of Baal-zephon.

8 Then said Pharaoh unto his captains, and unto the rulers of his host: Lo! the host of Egypt waxeth slack, let us remain here, for some time, and let us send forth spies; for behold! the deceivers cannot escape out of our hands.

9 And Moses sent messengers unto Pharaoh, saying, Wherefore follow ye after us? Are not the tribes of Israel in number more than the people of Egypt? Let us go and serve the Lord in the wilderness we pray thee!

10 And Pharaoh answered those that were sent unto him, and said, Because ye have deceived Pharaoh and his servants: because ye have spoiled the Egyptians. And Pharaoh was exceeding wroth.

11 And the children of Israel cried unto Moses, and said, Wherefore hast thou attempted thus vainly to bring us up out of Egypt? Surely, as sheep appointed for the slaughter are we come!

12 ¶ Then stood forth Caleb and said, Let every man take his bow in his hand: for it is far better that a few of us die, than that we, our wives, our children, our gold and our silver should fall a sacrifice unto the uncircumcised.

13 Remember how the Egyptians evilly intreated us: let us not forget the burthens which we have borne.

14 And the people cried out with one voice, We will die here: or we will slay the Egyptians.

15 Then Moses, Aaron and the elders of Israel sent Jasher unto Pharaoh, saying:

16 Behold, thus saith Moses, Aaron, and all the elders of Israel, On the morrow, by the break of day, we will restore unto thy people, if so be it shall be found that we have done wrong unto the people of Egypt thy servants.

17 And Pharaoh said unto Jasher, Say thou unto Moses, unto Aaron, and unto the elders of the children of Israel, that I Pharaoh will abide in this place, and all the host of the Egyptians.

18 But if on the morrow, Moses, Aaron, and the elders of

A. M. 2513.

A. M.
2513.

of Israel shall delay to perform the covenant they have this day made, then will I and all the host of Egypt follow after them, and slay them: none shall escape; no, not one.

19 And when Jasher had heard all that Pharaoh spake unto him: then returned he unto Moses, unto Aaron, and unto the elders of Israel, and he said unto them.

20 Thus saith Pharaoh, I Pharaoh will abide in this place, and all the host of the Egyptians.

21 But if on the morrow, Moses, Aaron and the elders of Israel shall delay to perform the covenant they have this day made, then will I and all the host of Egypt follow after them, and slay them: none shall escape; no, not one.

22 And the people feared greatly: because they had spoiled the Egyptians.

23 ¶ Then Moses called unto the people, and said, Behold! there is left unto us but one way, whereby we may escape the anger of Pharaoh: and of those that are with him.

24 It is now midnight, and by the time of the cock-crow the Red Sea will be dried up: and peradventure we may cross over dry-shod into the wilderness.

25 And it shall come to pass, that if Pharaoh and his host shall assay to come after

us: the waters shall return and overwhelm them.

26 Then Moses commanded Aaron, saying, About the mid of night, ye shall pass through the Red Sea: you and the people who lie on the bank thereof: ye shall pass through until all have passed through.

27 And after that: I and the people that shall remain with me will pass through the Red Sea.

28 And Pharaoh and the Egyptians shall not know of our departure: until the hindermost have entered the Red Sea.

29 And the people were between two walls.

30 And they said one unto another: It is better for us to be drowned in the Red Sea, than to be slain by the Egyptians.

CHAP. XI.

1 *The Israelites pass the Red Sea;*
6 *Pharaoh pursues them to the banks of the Red Sea;* 10 *Miriam and the virgins dance;* 16 *Pharaoh returns into Egypt.*

1 **A**ND it came to pass about the seventh hour of that night, in which the children of Israel were encamped on the Red Sea, that Aaron with the people began to pass through the waters.

2 And there went into the Red Sea of the children of Israel six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children:

A. M.
2513.

^c Heb. the fury.

A. M. children: and few fell by the
2513. way.

3 And the sun and the moon saw all that was done.

4 And it came to pass on the morrow, that it was told unto Pharaoh, and unto those that were with him, saying:

5 Behold the children of Israel are fled: behold even now they cross the Red Sea.

6 And Pharaoh and his host pursued after them, by the way of Baal-zephon: even to the banks of the Red Sea did they pursue them.

7 And the Egyptians said one to another, We cannot go in after the Hebrews, because of our chariots and our horsemen: for the way is not prepared for them.

8 And moreover should we pass through the sea: peradventure the Israelites shall slay us in the wilderness.

9 And Israel escaped that day out of the hands of the Egyptians: and Israel saw the Egyptians stay on the banks of the sea.

10 ¶ And Miriam said in the presence of Moses, and of Aaron, and of all the elders of Israel:

11 Behold! the waters are as a wall between us and the Egyptians: so that they cannot come nigh unto us, to destroy us.

12 And Miriam said, Sound the trumpet: bring forth the timbrel, lead up the dance.

13 And Miriam, the sister of Moses, with the virgins her companions, danced before the elders of Israel: and they leaped for joy, and they rejoiced exceedingly.

14 And Pharaoh and the Egyptians saw all that was done.

15 And Pharaoh said unto those that were with him:

16 Behold! the waters of the Red Sea have declared for the children of Jacob: let us therefore return into Egypt, and go every man to his dwelling.

17 For Israel are too many: the people are too mighty for us.

CHAP. XII.

1 *The Israelites go three days journey from the Red Sea; 4 they faint for want of water; 8 are relieved by the observation of Miriam; 22 she excites them to till the ground; 34 the place is called Elyma.*

1 **A**ND it came to pass, after the children of Israel had rested for seven days, that Moses said unto the elders:

2 Let us go three days journey into the wilderness, lest we become an eye-sore unto the Egyptians.

3 And the children of Israel: even all the people journeyed.

4 And it came to pass on the third day, on the evening thereof:

A. M.
2513.

A. M.
2513.

thereof: that the people fainted for want of water.

5 And they cried unto Moses, and they said: Give us to drink, lest we die.

6 And Moses was vexed: because of the thirst of the children of Israel.

7 And Moses said unto Miriam his sister, Lo! what shall I do, lest the people faint for want of water.

8 And Miriam said unto Moses, Go thou with me, and I will shew unto thee a well of water, which lieth eastward of the camp of the children of Israel: a spring which oozeeth under the shadow of a tree.

9 And Moses went with his sister, and Aaron and Jasher went also: and they came unto the tree.

10 And when Moses saw the oozeing, he said unto Miriam, What is this to the people of Israel!

11 And Miriam said, Dig: and lo the oozeing became as a rivulet.

12 And Moses, Aaron and Jasher were astonished.

13 Then Miriam said, Follow the stream.

14 And they came unto a place: where there were twelve wells of water.

15 And the people sojourned there: and the elders of Israel said unto Miriam:

16 Behold! thou hast refreshed the tribes of Jacob, when they fainted for want of

water: thou hast led us into the valley of the palm-trees.

17 Say now unto us, that which shall be pleasing unto thee: and that will we do.

18 And Miriam said, Remember now the words of Pharaoh when he spake unto us, Why covet ye to take with you your flocks and your cattle: for they cannot be sustained in the wilderness.

19 Nevertheless, O my brethren, unto this day have I sustained the male and the female of every flock, and of every herd, and of every fowl, which I brought out of the land of Goshen.

20 And this day do I deliver them unto the children of Israel, them and their young ones: that they may increase and multiply, and be food for this people.

21 For behold! the place that we are in is barren, and how long we shall dwell therein is not known unto man.

22 Up then, and let us till the ground: let us cultivate the land that we perish not.

23 Let us bend the bow, let us slay the wild beasts of the field: peradventure it shall come to pass, that the earth shall bring forth of its increase, and the beasts of the field shall become food for us, and for our children.

24 Then answered the elders of the children of Israel, and said:

25 All

A. M.
2513.

A. M.
2513.

25 All that Miriam hath spoken: that will we do.

26 Only how shall be sustained: we, our wives and our children, until the earth give of its increase.

^a Heb. the stream.

27 And Miriam said, With the silver and gold ye brought out of Egypt send and buy of the nations, on this side ^aJordan: oxen, and cattle, and corn for you, and your children.

28 Moreover, as I journeyed on to the eastward: lo, I saw trees bearing fruit, and an herb of the field; of which I took, and did eat.

29 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that certain men of Israel arose, and went eastward: and found all things even as Miriam had spoken unto them.

30 And they brought of the fruit thereof: and the people did eat daily, and were satisfied.

^b Heb. the valley.

31 And they sent chosen men into ^bRephidim: and they bought oxen and sheep, and corn and oil, and wine.

32 Then arose Caleb with all those who shot in the bow: and they slew the beasts of the field, even the wild beasts thereof, according as Miriam had commanded them.

^c Heb. invigorated.

33 And the place thereof was called ^cElyma, because the people were there refreshed with water: and because Miriam had chosen it for the so-

journeying of the children of Israel.

A. M.
2524.

34 And in process of time the children of Israel spread themselves from Elyma, even to Dopkah: unto the borders of the valley of Rephidim, and unto the land of Nebaioth.

35 And they dug ditches, and they planted trees: and they sowed corn.

36 But they built them no houses: under tents in the open fields did they dwell.

CHAP. XIII.

¹ *Moses sends spies into Rephidim; 4 sends Caleb to fight against Rephidim; 6 Miriam her proposal to Moses; 10 Joshua pushes the Amalekites out of the land.*

¹ **N**ow it came to pass, that Moses spake unto the elders of Israel, and he said: Behold, I have sent out spies into Rephidim, to search out the land.

2532.

2 And lo ^aAmalek dwelleth there, and the children of Amalek have built them houses in Rephidim: they have gotten also flocks, and much cattle and possessions.

^a Or, the lic-ker.

3 Up, let us drive them out of the land, that we may inherit it: for to drive out, and to take possession of the lands of the Gentiles are we come up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

4 And Moses said unto Caleb: Go thou and ^bJoshua, with the chosen men of the bow,

^b Heb. the deliverer.

A. M. bow up unto Rephidim, and
2532. fight against Amalek.

5 Behold they are but as a handful of men: Israel shall swallow them up.

6 Then spake Miriam unto Moses, and said, Send messengers unto Amalek: peradventure when he understandeth the intentions of the children of Israel, he will go quietly out of the land.

7 For it is now upwards of four hundred years, since our fathers dwelt in Canaan: these people know us not, neither regard they the claim of us their children.

8 Say therefore unto the inhabitants of Rephidim: I will buy with a price all the flocks, the cattle, the herds and possessions ye are possessed of.

9 That they may have silver and gold: to buy food and raiment in the lands wherein they shall be strangers.

10 And Moses sent Jasher unto Amalek, saying, Rephidim have I chosen for the habitation of the children of Israel: depart thou from thence, for to-morrow before the sun setteth will I possess it.

11 Only this thing will I do, if it shall come to pass, that you and your people go quietly out of the valley: then will I buy with a price all the flocks, the cattle, the herds and possessions ye are possessed of.

12 And Amalek said unto

Jasher, What meaneth Moses the stranger! Have I done any wrong unto the descendants of Jacob? Will they take from me that which is my own, the land of the Amalekites?

13 And Jasher returned unto Moses, and unto the elders of Israel: and told them all that Amalek had spoken.

14 And Moses called unto Joshua, and he commanded him, saying: Go out, fight against Amalek, smite them with the edge of the sword.

15 For they have rebelled against us: they have not in the least hearkened unto the words of Jacob.

16 ¶ And Caleb and Joshua, with chosen men of the host of Israel, went up against Rephidim: and they pushed the Amalekites out of that land.

CHAP. XIV.

1 *Jethro brings Zipporah to Moses;* 4 *who meets Jethro at mount Horeb;* 10 *Jethro advises Moses to appoint judges and rulers over the people;* and 32 *to give them laws and ordinances.*

1 **A**Nd it came to pass, when Jethro saw that Moses, his son-in-law, was become a prince unto the Hebrews, that he had brought them up out of the land of Egypt into the wilderness, and that he had driven out the Amalekites.

A. M.
2532.

A. M. malekites, and possessed himself of their city, and all the country of Rephidim.

2533.

2 That he went out to meet Moses : and there went with him Zipporah and her two children whom Moses had sent back.

^aHeb. drought.

3 And Jethro came and his daughter, and her two children : and they encamped at the foot of mount ^bHoreb.

^bHeb. ebony.

4 And Moses departed from the wilderness of ^bZin : to meet his father-in-law at mount Horeb.

5 And Jethro said unto Moses, Behold I am thy father-in-law : this may daughter Zipporah thou knowest is thy wife, and these are thy two children : take them unto thyself, as thou hast covenanted with me.

6 And Moses and Jethro were friends.

7 ¶ And it came to pass, that Moses told Jethro all that he had done in Egypt : that he had led the children of Israel through the Red Sea, and had brought them into the wilderness.

8 And this I say unto you, Behold, lift up your eyes, for the number of the children of Jacob exceed the number of thy people : and their dwellings are from Elyma, even until thou comest into the valley of Rephidim.

9 And Jethro said, Thou hast spoken truly, thy people

are a great people : and their number are without tale.

10 Now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of Jethro thy father : Write thou with a pen all those things which I shall now say unto thee.

11 For lo at this time thou judgeth the people daily : which thing is too heavy for thee, thou art not able to perform it alone.

12 Set over all Israel rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, and rulers of fifties.

13 And let them judge the people at all seasons appointed to their charge : they shall judge of all the small matters, the great ones shall the people bring unto thee.

14 So shall the weight thereof sit easier on thy shoulders : and the people shall have thee and thy office in greater esteem.

15 For it will so fall out, that all those whom thou shalt make judges over the people will hearken unto all things which thou shalt speak unto them.

16 And it shall come to pass, after thou hast done all this, that thou shalt teach them laws and ordinances : that thou mayest direct them in the way that thy people should walk, and in the duties that they must do.

17 Thou shalt say unto the children of Jacob, even before the elders thereof :

18 Ye

A. M.

2533.

A. M. 2533. 18 Ye shall set apart every seventh day, for a day of rest:

ye shall not work therein, neither thou, thy wife, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle:

19 For on that day, ye shall rest from your labour: ye shall bring offerings of your cattle, your flocks, and your herds, and of your fowls.

20 And the priests shall slay them before the congregation: and the flesh thereof shall ye roast with fire, and the people shall eat thereof.

21 And on that day shall the priests rehearse in the ears of all Israel, all the wonders which we have received from our forefathers: the mighty things which thou hast done in the land of Egypt, and all those laws and ordinances thou shalt appoint unto this people to observe.

22 Thou shalt say unto the children of Israel:

23 Ye shall not use Teraphim, neither shall ye worship any one of the gods of the nations: the Lord the maker of heaven and earth shall ye only worship.

24 Ye shall not speak evil of the maker of all things.

25 Ye shall reverence the hoary head.

26 Ye shall not smite any on man so that he die: he that doth shall die the death, and his name shall be forgotten.

A. M. 2533. 27 Ye shall not evil speak of, nor slander any one of the children of Jacob.

28 Ye shall not covet that which appertaineth unto another.

29 Ye shall not do after the abominations of the Egyptians: your sons shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughters.

30 Ye shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman during her uncleanness.

31 Ye shall not uncover the nakedness of the virgin betrothed: neither shalt thou go in unto a woman who is the wife of another.

32 ¶ And Jethro said unto Moses: Moreover, thou shalt teach the children of Israel such other statutes and ordinances, which thou and the judges thou shalt appoint, shall find needful.

33 And Jethro returned into Midian: and Moses departed for the valley of Rephidim.

C H A P. XV.

1 Moses attempts to appoint judges; 4 is opposed by Miriam; 7 he is angry with her; 8 Miriam is imprisoned; 9 on which the people rise and demand her; 11 she is set at liberty, and the people rejoice; 15 Miriam dies, and the people mourn; 16 her character.

1 **A** Nd it came to pass, that Moses assembled the elders and all the children of Israel together: nigh unto mount^a Sinai.

2 And

^a Heb. watchful.

A. M.
2534.

2 And Moses said unto the people : Chuse ye out from among you, seventy men, according to your tribes, that they may judge for you.

3 That there may be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, and rulers of fifties.

4 And Miriam arose and said, Shall Jethro instruct the Hebrews? Are the children of Jacob without understanding?

5 Are the customs of the Midianites to be brought in among us? Are we to forsake the good old paths in which our fathers, even Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have trod.

6 And the voice of the tribes of the congregation were on the side of Miriam.

7 And the anger of Moses was greatly kindled against Miriam : and Moses sought to cut Miriam off from the congregation.

8 And Moses hid Miriam for seven days : and the congregation wotted not what was come unto her.

9 And the people of Israel gathered themselves together unto Moses, and said :

10 Bring forth unto us Miriam our counsellor : for according to all she hath spoken we will do.

11 Then Moses brought forth Miriam : and presented her before the congregation,

12 And when the people

saw Miriam that she was well: they rejoiced greatly, with exceeding great joy.

13 And all the days of Miriam the children of Israel did according to all the words of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob.

14 ¶ And Miriam went : and dwelt in Kadesh.

15 And Miriam died there: And the children of Israel mourned for Miriam forty days : neither did any man go forth of his dwelling.

16 ¶ And the lamentation was great : for after Miriam arose up no one like unto her of the daughters of Jacob : no, not even unto this day.

17 And the fame thereof went out into all the lands of the Gentiles : yea, throughout all Canaan. And the nations feared greatly.

CHAP. XVI.

2 *Moses takes Jethro's advice; 5 he builds an altar; 6 twelve young men chosen; 7 who slay the offerings; 11 seventy elders chosen; 13 Moses and the seventy elders go up mount Sinai.*

1 **A**Nd it came to pass after the lamentation for Miriam was over, that Jethro came unto mount Sinai, and he spake unto Moses, saying :

2 Thus saith Jethro, the priest of Midian, Thou shalt appoint rulers of the people : according to all that which I have

A. M.
2534.

2539.

2540.

A. M. have spoken unto you at the
2540. foot of Horeb.

3 And Moses hearkened unto the words of Jethro his father-in-law: and he obeyed his voice in all that he had commanded him.

^a Heb. popu-
lar.
^b Heb. willed.
4 ¶ And Moses said unto 'Nadab and 'Abihu, the sons of Aaron: Go to now, and build ye an altar, even as Jethro hath dictated unto you.

5 And Nadab and Abihu builded an altar nigh unto mount Sinai, even as Jethro had dictated: and they set up twelve pillars, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel.

6 And Moses chose out from among the congregation twelve young men: men of strength and renown.

7 And Moses commanded them saying: Behold the people have brought oxen and sheep for a peace-offering, slay them before the altar, and roast the flesh thereof with fire: that the people may eat of the fat thereof, and be satisfied.

8 And the young men, the priests did so: and the congregation did eat before Sinai, and the people were well pleased.

9 And Moses stood forth and said, The work is great, and the number of the children of Israel, the Lord, the God of our fathers hath multiplied exceedingly: and he

will encrease them daily, even untill their number shall be as the stars of the firmament.

10 It is meet therefore, that ye chuse out from among you seventy elders that they may assist me, and Aaron, and Joshua, and Nadab and Abihu, the servants of the Lord.

11 And the congregation did as Moses had spoken.

12 ¶ And in those days it came to pass, that Moses spake unto Aaron, and unto ^c Hur saying:

^c Heb. cloathed in white.

13 Stay ye with the people here, and judge them: for lo, I shall go up on the mount with Joshua, Nadab and Abihu, and the elders: and we shall stay there forty days and forty nights.

14 ¶ And I Jasher, the son of Caleb bore the rod before Moses and Joshua, and the seventy elders of the people.

CHAP. XVII.

1 *Jethro meets Moses on mount Sinai; 5 Jethro's counsel; concerning building the tabernacle; 9 institution of the priesthood; 10 Aaron's family is chosen; 11 holy vestments appointed; 12 the ark; 14 the people murmur; 21 Moses his proposal; 22 Nadab and Abihu only dissent; 24 Moses descends from the mount; 28 the tribe of Levi made holy.*

1 **N**OW it came to pass, on the morrow, that Jethro met Moses, Joshua, Nadab,

A. M.
2543.

Abihu and the seventy elders on the mount: and the trumpet sounded.

2 And Jethro said unto Moses, Thou hast done well: in that thou hast chosen out wise men to be counsellors unto thee.

3 And Jethro bowed himself before Moses, Joshua, Nadab, Abihu: and before the seventy elders.

4 ¶ And on the second day, about the ninth hour thereof, the trumpet sounded, and Jethro, Moses his father-in-law, stood forth and said:

• Heb. the hairy.

5 Behold, thus saith Jethro the son of Esau, the priest of Midian: It is meet, O Israel! that ye build a tabernacle for the God, the maker of heaven, and of earth; even for the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, that ye may serve the Lord, who hath delivered ye out of the hands of the Egyptians, and from the dangers of the Red Sea.

6 Then Moses, Joshua, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders answered Jethro, and said:

7 The Lord our God hath been merciful unto us: and the light of his countenance hath shone upon us.

8 Then Jethro instructed Moses in what manner, and in what form, and with what materials he should build the tabernacle of the Lord of hosts.

9 And thus saith Jethro, when ye have builded the tabernacle, ye shall appoint priests to minister before the Lord: according to the tribes of the children of Israel shall ye appoint.

10 And Moses, Joshua, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders said: Let Aaron and his sons be set apart as sanctified unto the Lord.

11 Then said Jethro unto Moses, Thou shalt put upon Aaron and his sons the garments which thou hast seen: that they may be a holy priesthood unto the Lord, the God of Israel.

12 Moreover, ye shall build an ark unto the Lord, wherein ye shall lay up before the Lord the testimony: even the writings of the laws and ordinances which ye shall receive.

13 And it came to pass, when the forty days were fulfilled, wherein Jethro communed with Moses, Joshua, and the seventy elders, that all the statutes and the ordinances to be observed were written in a book of remembrance.

14 ¶ And it came to pass, whilst Moses, Joshua, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders tarried in the mount, that the people murmured: and they said one among another,

15 Whether is it better, that we be the subjects of the Egyptians whom we know:

E

Up,

A. M.
2543.

A. M. Up, let us return thither, we,
2543. our wives, and our children :
or become the slaves, and walk
after the laws and customs of
Jethro the Midianite, whom
we know not ?

16 And the people spake
unto Aaron, saying : Moses,
who by his cunning hath
brought us up out of the land
of Egypt, now seeketh to
make himself a king and a
ruler over us.

17 And Aaron answered
the people, and he said : On
the morning of the third day,
ye shall assemble according to
your tribes : and I will do all
that which ye shall then speak
unto me.

18 ¶ Then Aaron sent mes-
sengers unto Moses, Joshua,
Nadab and Abihu, and the se-
venty elders, on the mount,
and they spake before them,
saying :

19 Thus saith Aaron thy
brother, because ye tarry on
the mount, the people mur-
mur and say, Whether is it
better, that we be the subjects
of the Egyptians whom we
know : Up, let us return thi-
ther, we, our wives, and our
children ; or become the slaves
and walk after the laws and cu-
stoms of Jethro the Midianite
whom we know not ?

20 And when Moses had
heard these things he was ex-
ceeding wroth.

21 ¶ Then Moses after he
had sent away the messengers

spake unto Joshua, Nadab and
Abihu, and the seventy el-
ders :

22 Behold thus it behoveth
us to say unto the people : We
have seen the Lord in the
mount, we have eat and drank
in his presence, and the words
which he hath spoken unto us,
they are those which we now
deliver unto you.

23 And the saying of Mo-
ses was pleasing unto Joshua,
and unto the seventy elders :
but unto Nadab and Abihu it
was not pleasing.

24 And Nadab and Abihu
were cut off from the assem-
bly : and they hastened into
the camp of the children of
Israel, which lay at the foot
of mount Sinai.

25 ¶ And it came to pass
on the fortieth morning after
Moses, Joshua, and the seven-
ty elders had gone up on the
mount, that the trumpet
founded : and Moses, Joshua
and the seventy elders assay-
ed to come down from the
mount.

26 And as they descended,
Joshua spake unto Moses, and
said, Lo, Nadab and Abihu
have joined themselves unto
the people : and the voice of
the people seemeth as the voice
of rebellion.

27 And it was told unto
Moses, and unto Joshua, say-
ing, The voice of the people
is the voice of shouting, and
of great joy : lo, Aaron, Hur,
Nadab

A. M.
2543.

A. M. Nadab and Abihu stand up
2543. before the people.

28 ¶ Then Moses called for Aaron, and he said unto him, The Lord hath chosen thee and thy sons to minister before the Lord: in the tabernacle which ye shall build.

29 Separate therefore yourselves, thou and thy sons: even all the tribe of Levi, that ye may be a holy priesthood unto the Lord.

30 And Moses came down from the mount: he and Joshua, and the seventy elders of the people.

CHAP. XVIII.

3 *Nadab and Abihu rebel; 6 the Levites slay three thousand of the people; 8 the people repent; 12 they build a tabernacle; 18 and an altar; 19 Aaron and his sons are to be clothed.*

1 **A**ND it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses stood before the people, at the entrance into the camp, and he said:

2 Who is on the Lord's side? let him come forth of the camp.

3 And Aaron, and all the sons of the tribe of Levi: except Nadab and Abihu came forth of the camp, and stood before Moses.

4 And Joshua said unto Moses: Lo, the people have spoken well of Nadab and Abihu: and they have eaten, and they have drank, and be-

hold now they are risen up to play.

5 ¶ Then said Moses unto the sons of Levi, even unto all the tribe thereof: Gird on each man his sword, and go ye through the camp, and slay ye the froward, even every man his friend.

6 And they did so: and they slew Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, with three thousand of the people.

7 But Aaron held his peace.

8 ¶ And it came to pass, when the slaughter was over, that the children of Israel humbled themselves, and they said:

9 All that the Lord shall say unto us, that will we do.

10 And the people sent messengers unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Joshua, and unto the seventy elders, saying:

11 We have done wrong, we have sinned, intreat ye for us.

12 And Moses said, Thus saith the Lord, ye shall build a tabernacle unto my name, wherein my honour shall dwell.

13 ^bBezaliel and ^cAholiab are endued with understanding, in all manner of workmanship, in cunning works, in works of gold, and in works of silver: lo, they shall build the tabernacle according to all that I shall say unto them.

E 2

14 And

A. M.
2543.

^a Or, ruler.

^b Heb. according to the pattern of the Lord.

^c Heb. the builder.

A. M.
2543.

14 And Bezaliel and Aholiab built the tabernacle for the congregation: with the offerings of the children of Israel, even of gold, of silver, of brass, and of fine linen.

15 ¶ This is my sanctuary: and I will dwell among my people from this day forth for evermore.

16 ¶ And it came to pass, that Moses went into the tabernacle: in the sight of all the children of Israel.

17 And Moses came forth to the door of the tabernacle, and spake before the congregation, and said:

18 Thus saith the Lord, Ye shall build an altar before the door of the tabernacle: and ye shall offer thereon burnt-offerings, and lambs and kids of a year old: and Aaron and his sons shall minister before me.

19 ¶ And thus shalt thou cloath Aaron: Thou shalt put upon Aaron the coat, the ephod, the breast-plate, the mitre, and the crown:

20 And on his sons, even on all the males of the tribe of Levi, who are able to stand before the congregation: ye shall put on coats, girdles and bonnets.

21 Thus shall ye consecrate Aaron and his sons: and they shall minister before me for ever.

CHAP. XIX.

A. M.
2544.

1 *Moses reads the law before the congregation; 17 they promise to observe the ordinances and statutes.*

1 **A**Nd it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses read before the congregation, out of the book of the covenant, the statutes and ordinances which the Lord had appointed unto the children of Israel to observe.

2 And Moses said, Thus saith the Lord, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob: I am the Lord thy God, with my out-stretched arm have I delivered ye from the bondage of the Egyptians; ye shall worship no other god beside me.

3 The likeness of the Lord thy God thou shalt not make, either in gold, in silver, in brass, nor in wood: thou shalt not use Teraphim in thy dwellings, saith the Lord.

4 Sacred and holy shall my name be, in the mouths of this congregation: and in the mouths of your sons and your sons sons throughout all generations.

5 Ye shall set apart every seventh day, for a day of rest: thou shalt not work therein, neither thou, thy wife, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger.

A. M. stranger that shall be within
2544. thy gate.

6 For on that day, thou shalt rest from thy labour: and on that day thou shalt bring offerings of thy cattle, of thy flocks, of thy herds, and of thy fowls.

7 And the priests shall slay them before the congregation: and the flesh thereof shall they roast with fire.

8 And on that day shall the priest rehearse in the ears of all Israel, all the wonders done in the land of Egypt, and in the Red.

9 Thou shalt reverence the hoary head.

10 Thou shalt not smite any man, so that he die: if thou dost, thou shalt die the death, and thy name shall be forgotten:

11 Thou shalt not speak evil of: nor slander any of the children of Jacob.

12 Thou shalt not covet that: which is the property of another.

13 Thou shalt not do after the abominations of the Egyptians: thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy sister, she is thy own flesh:

14 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman: during her uncleanness.

15 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of the virgin betrothed: neither shalt thou go in unto a woman who is the wife of another.

16 ¶ And when Moses had made an end of speaking: all the people cried out with one voice,

17 All these things which the Lord hath commanded, will we observe to do: we and our sons, and our sons sons for ever.

CHAP. XX.

2 The ark is built; 5 the mercy-seat; 6 the table; 7 the vessels; 8 the incense-altar; 11 the hangings; 16 priests to be without blemish.

1 A Nd Moses said, Behold thus saith the Lord, Ye shall build an ark unto the Lord; and ye shall put the ark into the tabernacle of the congregation: and ye shall lay up therein the words of the testimony, which I have read this day in the ears of all Israel, for a perpetual memorial of the covenant which the Lord hath made with the posterity of Jacob.

2 ¶ And Bezaliel and Aholiab made the ark: according to the pattern they had received of the Lord on mount Sinai.

3 And the ark was of Shittim-wood: two cubits and a half was the length of it, and a cubit and a half the breadth of it, and the height a cubit and a half.

4 And they made four rings of gold, two on each side, and they made two staves also: that

A. M.
2544.

2545.

A. M.
2545.

that the priests might bear the ark of the testimony before the people.

5 Then made they the mercy-seat of pure gold, and the cherubims at each corner thereof: of pure gold did they make them.

6 The table of Shittim-wood made they, and they over-laid it with gold: and they cast four rings of gold, and they made staves to bear the table.

7 And the vessels of the table, the dishes, the spoons, the bowls, the covers, the candlesticks, the six branches thereof: and the seven lamps, the snuffers, and snuff-dishes, of beaten gold were they made.

8 The incense-altar of Shittim-wood was four-square, and the horns thereof of the same, over-laid with pure gold, with rings and with staves to bear it withal.

9 Of Shittim-wood also did they make the altar of the burnt-offering, and the horns thereof, and the staves thereof: and with brass did they over-lay it.

10 The pots, the shovels, the basons, the fire-pans, the grates, the four rings, the laver, the twenty pillars with their sockets: all of brass did they make them.

11 And of fine linen were made the hangings of the tabernacle, and the hangings of the gate of the court were of

blue, of scarlet, and of purple, wrought in needle-work by the virgins of Israel: according to the pattern Moses had received of the Lord on the mount.

12 For they brought unto Moses day by day all the work which they had done: and Moses looked on the same, that it might be done according to all that the Lord had commanded him.

13 ¶ And Moses said, Thus hath the Lord spoken, Thou shalt put the ark of the covenant, the table, the mercy-seat with all the furniture thereof, into the tabernacle of the congregation.

14 Before the door of the tabernacle shalt thou build the altar, with the laver, and with the hangings thereof: and with oil shalt thou sanctify them.

15 Aaron and his sons shalt thou bring before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt wash them with water, and thou shalt anoint them with oil.

16 Only this thing shalt thou observe, All the males of the tribe of Levi without blemish shalt thou consecrate, saith the Lord: the eunuch whether he be born so, or made so, shalt thou not consecrate.

17 And the burnt-offerings and the sacrifices, and the offerings of kids and of goats, and of sheep, and of oxen,
and

A. M.
2533.

A. M. 2545. and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen, which the people offered, appertained unto the Levites, even as the Lord had commanded Moses.

18 ¶ Thus did Moses in the sight of all Israel: even according to the commandment of the Lord did he.

CHAP. XXI.

¹ *Korah his rebellion; 11 he and his company destroyed by fire; 13 the people fear greatly; 15 the priesthood established.*

^a *Heb. the rites.*
^b *Heb. the father of deceit.*
^c *Heb. iniquity.*

1 **A**ND when Korah, ^aDathan, ^bAbiram and ^cOn, with two hundred and fifty of the children of Israel: men famous in the congregation, and men of renown, saw all that was done:

2 They said one to the other: This thing which Moses and Aaron hath done is not of the Lord.

3 For behold henceforward shall the tribe of Levi live on the fat of the land, they shall be cloathed in soft raiment; they shall fare sumptuously every day; the plough and the axe shall they be strangers to: and lo! we and our sons and our sons sons shall they gall with the yoke that this day they have brought upon us.

4 And they gathered themselves together unto Moses, and they said unto him:

5 What thing is this that thou hast done? Are not all

the people holy? Wherefore hast thou separated the tribe of Levi to be sanctified unto the Lord.

6 Hast thou not brought us into the wilderness? Should not all help to till the ground? yea, the hands of the people are not equal to the task: and shalt thou take away every tenth man from the labour.

7 And Moses said, Tomorrow shall the Lord answer the blasphemies you now utter: and shew who is holy, and who is not holy.

8 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, with the two hundred and fifty men of the children of Israel assembled themselves together before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

9 And Moses spake unto them, and said, Behold, O Korah, Dathan and Abiram, thus saith the Lord, Ye fight against me, even against the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, who hath brought you up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

10 And Moses said unto the congregation: Separate yourselves from Korah and his company, peradventure the Lord will do a new thing.

11 And they did so: and Korah and his company stood before the tabernacle.

12 And

A. M. 2513.

A. M.
2513.

12 And Moses commanded the Levites, saying : Up now, slay Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, with those that are with them with fire, even as the Lord hath spoken unto me.

13 And Korah, Dathan and Abiram with the two hundred and fifty men of the children of Israel : perished by fire before the door of the tabernacle of the Lord.

14 And great fear fell on all the congregation : and they hastened every man to his tent.

15 ¶ Thus did Moses establish the priesthood in his brother's house, in the tribe of Levi : and he committed unto them, the keeping of the tabernacle, of the ark, and of the book of the testimony, according to all that the Lord had commanded him.

C H A P. XXII.

1 *Israel enjoy peace ; 4 defile themselves with the women of Midian and Moab.*

1 **A**fter these days it came to pass, that the people obeyed the voice of the Lord : by the mouth of his servant Moses.

2 And there was peace throughout all the tribes of the children of Israel.

3 For no man opened his mouth against Zipporah : nor against the women of Midian her companions, nor against those of Moab.

4 ¶ And in process of time, the women of Midian, and the women of Moab became conversant with the sons of Israel.

5 During all the days of Jethro Moses his father-in-law : and all the days of Zipporah Moses his wife.

6 And the children of Israel defiled themselves with the women of Midian, and with the women of Moab : and they learned to walk after all their abominations.

C H A P. XXIII.

2 *Aaron reads out of the book of the covenant divers laws concerning trespasses, and their atonements ; 18 the passover and feasts instituted ; 23 Shemite his blasphemy ; 26 he is stoned.*

1 **A**nd it came to pass after many days, that Moses assembled the congregation of the children of Israel together : even all the tribes thereof to the door of the tabernacle of the Lord.

2 And he brought forth the book of the covenant : and Aaron read it before the congregation, in the sight of all Israel.

3 And Aaron said, Thus saith the Lord by his servant Moses : If any man bring an offering unto the Lord : he shall bring it voluntary, it shall be a male without blemish, of his flock, of his cattle, and of the prime of his fowl.

4 He

A. M.
2546.

2547.

A. M.
2547.

4 He shall bring the male of his flock unto the priests, the sons of Aaron: and they shall slay it before the door of the tabernacle, and they shall cut it in pieces, and they shall lay it on the altar on the fire which they shall make; and they shall roast the flesh thereof, which is acceptable and a sweet savour as the Lord hath appointed.

5 And when any man shall bring a meal-offering unto the Lord, he shall offer of fine flour unleavened mixed with oil and frankincense: and the priests shall bake it on the altar, and they shall eat thereof; it is a thing done by fire, and is of a sweet savour.

6 And thou shalt bring an oblation of thy first-fruits unto the Lord: and with all thy offerings thou shalt offer salt.

7 The peace-offering, whether it be of the herd, of the flock, or of the field, it shall be the best: without blemish shalt thou bring it before the Lord.

8 If thou doest sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the Lord, thou shalt bring before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation a young bullock, or a kid, or a lamb without blemish: and the priest shall kill the bullock, or the kid, or the lamb, and he shall roast them with fire on the altar without the gate of the camp,

and thy sin shall be forgiven thee.

9 If thou shalt touch any unclean thing, whether it be of man or of beast, thou shalt bring unto the priest a lamb or a kid of thy goats, or two turtle-doves, or an ephah of fine flour: and he shall make an atonement for thee.

10 If thou shalt commit a trespass unwittingly, then shalt thou bring a ram without blemish, with the estimation thereof in shekels of silver: and when thou hast satisfied the trespass, thou shalt add the fifth part thereof, and thou shalt give it unto the priest, who shall make an atonement for thee, and thy trespass shall be forgiven.

11 If thou shalt trespass wittingly against thy neighbour, by taking that which is his, thou shalt restore it to the full estimation thereof: and thou shalt give him a fifth part more: and then thou shalt bring unto the priest a ram without blemish, with its value in shekels of silver: and the priest shall make an atonement for thee, and thou shalt be forgiven.

12 And the priests, the sons of Aaron, shall eat of the sin-offering, of the peace-offering, and of the trespass-offering: according to all which the Lord commanded Moses in mount Sinai.

13 ¶ Thus saith the Lord,
F Aaron

A. M.
2547.

A. M.
2547.

Aaron nor his sons shall not drink wine nor strong drink, when they are to minister before the congregation, that they may discern between the clean and the unclean: and that they may teach the children of Israel my statutes.

14 Thus saith the Lord, When a woman hath borne a child, whether it be a male-child, or a maid-child, she shall be unclean thirty and three days: and she shall bring a lamb of the first year, or two turtles, or two young pigeons, and she shall bring them unto the priest, and he shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.

15 ¶ Thus saith the Lord, When a man shall have in his flesh the plague of the leprosy, he shall be brought unto Aaron, or unto one of his sons, who shall look on him, and if he be unclean, he shall put him out of the camp, until he shall be healed of his sore: and then he shall bring unto the priest two he-lambs without blemish, and three tenth-deals of fine flour mingled with oil, with one log of oil, and the priest shall wave them before the Lord, and shall make an atonement for him, and he shall be clean.

16 Thus saith the Lord, Whilst a woman is unclean in her flesh, she shall be put apart seven days, no man shall approach unto her during her

uncleanness: and when she is cleansed of her issue, she shall take two turtles, or two young pigeons, and bring them unto the priest, to the door of the tabernacle; and he shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.

17 ¶ And it shall come to pass on the seventh month in every year, when the congregation of the children of Israel hath sinned against the Lord, that every man shall bring an offering according to his estimation: and the priests shall wave every man's oblation before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the priests shall make atonement for the sins of all the people of Israel, and they shall be forgiven their sin, which they have sinned against the Lord.

18 ¶ Moreover thus shall ye do, on the fourteenth day of the first month: at even shall be the feast of the passover unto the Lord.

19 And the next day shall be the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord for seven days.

20 And on the tenth there shall be a day of atonement: wherein ye shall afflict your souls.

21 And on the fifteenth day shall be the feast of tabernacles: with boughs, and with branches of palm-trees, and with willows of the brook shall

A. M.
2547.

A. M. shall ye rejoice before the Lord
2547. for seven days.

22 Thus did Moses establish the feasts of the Lord: even as he was commanded on mount Sinai.

23 ¶ Then came forth the son of Shelomith before the congregation, and spake unto Moses at the door of the tabernacle, saying:

24 The Lord hath not spoken these things: peradventure they are imaginations of evil to this people.

25 And Moses commanded the Levites, saying, Lead him forth of the camp: and let the people stone him with stones that he die, as the Lord hath spoken.

26 And they did so: and the people stoned him to death: because he had blasphemed before Moses, and because he had spoken evil in Israel.

CHAP. XXIV.

1 Twelve spies sent into Canaan; 10 ten bring an evil report; 11 Caleb and Joshua encourage the people; 18 the ten are stoned; 20 Jethro dies; 22 Zipporah dies; 23 Aaron dies.

2548.

1 **A**ND it came to pass, when the days of the sojourning of the children of Israel in the wilderness were multiplied, that Moses spake unto the elders, and unto all the congregation of Israel, saying:

2 Thus saith the Lord, Send chosen men to search out the land of Canaan, according to the number of the tribes, twelve men: men of wisdom, that ye may go in, and possess the land which I have given unto you.

3 And the men who were sent, were ^aShammua, ^bShaphat, Caleb, ^cIgal, Joshua, ^dPalti, ^eGaddiel, ^fGaddi, ^gAmmiel, ^hSethur, ⁱNahbi, and ^kGeuel.

4 These are the names of the men whom Moses sent into Canaan to spy out the land.

5 And Moses said unto them, Go into Canaan this way, and go up on yonder mountain; and from thence see the land: and bring unto me and the congregation of Israel word, whether the people therein be strong or weak, or few or many.

6 Whether the land be a land flowing with milk and with honey: and what cities they have builded, their strong holds, their tents and their houses shall you note.

7 ¶ Then went forth the spies, and they did as Moses had commanded: and they brought with them of the fruit of the land, and they returned in forty days.

8 And the men who were sent spake unto Moses and Aaron, and unto the congregation, saying:

F 2

9 Surely

A. M.

2548.

^a Heb. obeying.^b Heb. the judicious.^c Heb. the redeemed.^d Heb. freed.^e Heb. the expeditious.^f Heb. girded.^g Heb. God with me.^h Heb. exploring.ⁱ Heb. the reserved.^k Heb. the celebrated.

A. M.

2548.

9 Surely the land of Canaan whither ye sent us, is a land flowing with milk and with honey: and behold this is the fruit thereof.

10 But as for the people, they be strong, and their cities be walled and exceeding great:

¹ Heb. huge.

¹ Anak and his sons dwell there, with our enemies the Amalekites, the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites.

11 And Caleb, even he who taught Israel to shoot in the bow stood forth and said, Up, let us gird on the sword, and take the bow, peradventure we shall possess the land, for we are more mighty than the people of the nations: and the Lord is with us, and he will prosper us.

12 And Joshua said, Caleb hath spoken the truth.

13 Then said the other men who were sent with Caleb and Joshua unto Moses, and unto all the congregation, ten were they in number, We cannot stand before this people, for they are stronger, and in stature we appear unto them as dwarfs; the sons of Anak are giants: lo! we shall never be able to go in and possess the land.

14 And they sowed sedition among the people: and the children of Israel murmured, and said:

15 Wherefore hath Moses and Aaron brought us hither: that we, our wives and our

children fall by the sword of the Gentiles.

16 And they said as one man: Shammua shall be our captain, and we will return into the land of Egypt.

17 ¶ Then spake Caleb the son of ^m Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of ⁿ Nun, These men who went with us, have brought an evil report on the land: for the land is good, it floweth with milk and with honey: and the Lord, the God of our fathers have delivered the people thereof into our hand.

18 And Moses said, They have blasphemed, they have lied unto the Lord: and the Levites and the congregation stoned them with stones before the door of the tabernacle.

19 Then dwelt Israel in peace: and listened unto the words of the Lord, which he spake by the mouth of Moses his servant.

20 ¶ And it was told unto Moses: that Jethro his father-in-law was dead.

21 And ^o Balak the king of Moab, was king of Midian: now Balak was not the son of Jethro.

22 And Zipporah, Jethro's daughter, the wife of Moses, she died also: but the children of Israel mourned not.

23 And Aaron went up into mount ^p Hor, and died there: and was buried.

A. M.

2548.

^m Heb. regarding.
ⁿ Heb. the steady.

2550.

^o Heb. pulled down.

^p Heb. steep.

A. M.
2551.

CHAP. XXV.

1 *Moses exhorteth the people to go into Canaan; 6 Balak opposes the designs of Moses; 14 the Midianites, the Moabites, and the Amorites are smitten, except the women; 18 with whom the Israelites defile themselves; 23 the Levites hang up the chiefs; 26 the women of Midian are slain, save the virgins; 30 Moses divideth the spoil; 40 the Reubenites desire to have their inheritance on this side Jordan; 47 it is granted on condition.*

^a Heb. the porch of the Lord.

1 **A**ND the trumpet sounded before Moses, and before Eleazar the priest, and before the elders at the door of the tabernacle: and all Israel assembled to hear the words of the Lord.

2 And Moses said, The days of the accomplishment of the promise, which the Lord hath made unto our fathers: that their seed shall inherit the land of Canaan, is at hand.

3 Arm therefore to the war so many of you, according to your tribes: one thousand out of every tribe shall ye number.

^b Heb. confiding.

4 And Joshua and Caleb, and Phinehas the priest with the holy trumpets shall go before you, and lead you into the land, whereof the Lord hath said: Thy seed shall possess the land of Canaan, as I swore unto thy fathers; a land flowing with milk and honey.

5 The Amorites, the Moabites, the Midianites, the Jebusites, and all the nations of Canaan: they shall not stand before you, saith the Lord.

A. M.
2551.

6 ¶ Now it came to pass, that when Balak, the king of Moab had heard all that had been spoken by Moses, that he assembled the princes of Moab and of Midian, with those of the Amorites, and he said unto them:

^c Heb. incest.

7 Behold! Moses with the Hebrews who have followed him out of Egypt draw nigh unto our land to dispossess us: and to drive us out from the heritage of our fathers.

8 Now therefore send messengers unto Balaam, the king of Mesopotamia, lest when they have destroyed us, they destroy him, and his people also.

^d Heb. grave.

^e Or, mediterranean.

9 And the messengers came unto Pethor, and spake unto Balaam: Lo! the Hebrews, who are come up out of Egypt have set their faces against us, join thou with us, that neither we, nor thy servants be slain.

10 Then Balaam assembled the princes of Mesopotamia together, and he said unto them: Lo! Balak king of Moab and of Midian hath sent unto us, that we fight with them against Moses and the Hebrews who have now set their faces against the Midianites, the Moabites and the Amorites, to dispossess and destroy them.

11 And

A. M.
2551.

11 And the princes said,
Why should we fight against
Israel: seeing we dwell in the
land between the two rivers.

12 And the messengers re-
turned unto Balak: and Balak
was disheartened.

13 ¶ Then went forth Jo-
shua, Caleb and Phinehas the
priest, with the holy instru-
ments, and with the trum-
pets, and it was proclaimed,
saying:

14 Smite the Midianites;
even all the males thereof:
but the females ye shall not
touch.

15 And they did so: and
there fell that day all the males
of the children of Midian, of
Moab, and of the nations.

16 Then returned Phine-
has, Joshua and Caleb with
all Israel that went forth to
the battle.

17 And they brought into
the camp of Israel all the wives
of the Midianites, of the Mo-
abites, and of the Amorites,
with the virgins: even all the
females.

18 And the elders, and all
the children of Israel defiled
themselves with the women
of Midian, with the women
of Moab, and with the wo-
men of the nations.

19 And children of the wo-
men of Midian, Moab and the
nations were born unto the el-
ders of the people of Israel.

20 And the people did evil
in the sight of the Lord.

21 ¶ Then Moses with E-
leazar the priest stood forth
and said:

22 Ye have sinned in that
ye have saved the women of
the nations when ye fought a-
gainst them: and the Lord de-
livered the people into your
hands.

23 And Moses spake unto
the Levites, and said, Thus
saith the Lord: Take the
heads of those who have sin-
ned, and hang them up be-
fore the door of the taberna-
cle of the Lord, in the sight
of all the congregation.

24 And they hung them
up in the sun: in the sight of
all Israel.

25 And there fell of the
people twenty and four thou-
sand: and then the slaughter
ceased.

26 Then Moses spake un-
to the children of Israel, and
said, Thus saith the Lord, Ye
shall slay all the women of the
nations with whom ye have
defiled your selves, and the
males born unto them: you
shall save for your selves only
the virgin who hath not lain
with man.

27 And the children of Is-
rael did according to all that
they were commanded.

28 And the number of the
women-children virgins were
thirty and two thousand who
knew not man.

29 ¶ And it came to pass,
after these things, that Moses
said,

A. M.
2551.

2552.

A. M. 2552. said, Bring forth the spoil of the Moabites, the Midianites; and of the nations.

30 For thus saith the Lord, The prey shall ye divide: the one half thereof shall be for those who took the war upon them: and the other half shall ye give unto the congregation of the Lord.

31 Now the half that pertained unto the men, even unto those of each tribe who came from the war, were of sheep three hundred and seven and thirty thousand and five hundred: of beeves thirty and six thousand: of asses thirty thousand and five hundred: and of virgins sixteen thousand.

32 But of these the tribute unto the Lord were of the sheep six hundred seventy and five: of the beeves seventy and two: of the asses sixty and one: and of the virgins thirty and two.

33 And Moses delivered the tribute unto Eleazar the priest as an offering unto the Lord.

34 And Moses gave unto the congregation their portion: of the sheep three hundred and seven and thirty thousand: of beeves thirty and six thousand: of asses thirty thousand and five hundred: and of virgins sixteen thousand.

35 But of these the tribute unto the Lord were of the sheep six hundred seventy and five: of the beeves seventy

and two: of the asses sixty and one: and of the virgins thirty and two.

36 And Moses delivered the tribute unto Eleazar the priest as an offering unto the Lord.

37 So the Lord's portion of the spoil delivered unto the Levites were of the sheep one thousand three hundred and fifty: of the beeves one hundred and forty and two: of the asses one hundred twenty and two: and of virgins sixty and four: besides their part as one of the tribes of Israel.

38 But of the gold, and of the silver, and of the jewels, and of the chains, and of the bracelets, and of the ear-rings which the men of war had taken brought they unto Moses, and unto Eleazar: and Eleazar offered them up as an oblation unto the Lord.

39 And the sum thereof was sixteen thousand and seven hundred and fifty shekels.

40 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that the children of the tribe of 'Dan and of the tribe of Reuben drew near unto Moses, and unto Eleazar the priest, and unto the elders of Israel, and said:

41 Behold our inheritance is fallen unto us on this side 'Jordan.

42 And we, our wives, our children, and the virgins the Lord hath given us are many in number, and our cattle are a great multitude.

43 Ataroth,

A. M. 2552.

^f Heb. judgment.

^g Heb. water of judgment.

A. M.

2552.

^h Heb. the
horn of plen-
ty.

ⁱ Heb. intel-
ligent.

^k Heb. help-
ing.

43 ^hAtaroth, ⁱDibon, ^kJa-
zer, with all the cites and vil-
lages on this side Jordan in the
land of Gilead, permit us to
possess, that we may build
sheepfolds for our cattle, and
dwellings for our wives, and
for our children.

44 And Moses said unto the
rulers of the tribes of Reuben
and of Dan, Surely to excuse
yourselves from the war, from
driving out the Canaanites : do
ye ask of me this thing !

45 And they answered Mo-
ses and said, We ourselves will
go armed unto the war, and
we will pass over Jordan : nei-
ther will we return again unto
our wives, and our children,
until Israel hath possessed the
land of Canaan.

46 And Moses said, Be it
unto you : even as you have
said :

47 Only observe you this
thing, that ye be ready to pass
over Jordan armed before the
Lord, and before Joshua his
servant, until he hath driven
out your enemies : then shall
ye return, and ye shall be
guiltless before the Lord.

48 But if ye turn your backs
on the covenant ye have this
day made, behold the sin which
ye shall sin before the Lord
will avenge you.

49 And they said unto Mo-
ses : We thy servants will do
as thou my lord hath com-
manded.

50 And they departed.

CHAP. XXVI.

A. M.

2553.

ⁱ Joshua is appointed to succeed
Moses ; Moses's charge to Jo-
shua ; 15 Moses blesses the tribes
of Israel ; 27 takes the rod from
Jasher ; 29 he goes up Pisgah ;
30 views the promised land ; 32
Moses dies.

ⁱ **A**Nd the Lord said unto
Moses, Call Joshua
the son of Nun unto you be-
fore the door of the tabernacle
of the congregation, and give
unto him a charge : for behold
the days draw nigh wherein
thou shalt die.

2 And Moses did as the
Lord commanded, and Moses
said unto Joshua in the fight
of all Israel, Thus saith the
Lord, Be strong, and of great
courage, for thee have I cho-
sen to lead my people into the
land of which I swore unto
them, that they should possess
it : and I will be with thee.

3 ¶ And the Lord spake
unto Moses, and said, Write
now a song, even the song I
shall teach thee, that the chil-
dren of Israel may learn the
words thereof : that they
may not hereafter forsake my
laws, nor disregard the statutes
which they have received.

4 And Moses spake before
the congregation all the words
of the song : until they were
ended.

5 And Moses spake unto
Joshua, and unto Eleazar the
priest, saying, Lay up before the
the

A. M.
2553.

the Lord in the ark of the covenant the words which this day I have taught the children of Israel, that your sons, and your sons sons, and your daughters may learn them.

6 And Moses and the children of Israel sojourneyed in the plains of Moab, by Jordan, over-against Jericho.

7 ¶ And Moses assembled together Joshua, and all the children of Israel, and he said unto them :

8 Behold the days draw nigh wherein I shall be gathered unto my fathers.

9 And thus saith the Lord, When ye shall pass over Jordan into the land of Canaan, that ye shall drive out the inhabitants : and ye shall divide by lot their land among your families, according to the number of each tribe shall ye divide it.

10 Ye shall surely drive out the inhabitants, none shall remain : lest Israel be corrupted through their abominations, and they be as thorns in your sides.

11 And these are the men who shall divide the land : even Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun.

12 And of the princes of the people, Caleb, ^aShemuel, ^bElidad, ^cBukki, ^dHanniel, ^eKemuel, ^fElizaphan, ^gPaltiel, ^hAhihud, and ⁱPedahel.

13 And thus saith the Lord, Command the children of Is-

rael, that they give unto the Levites, forty and eight cities for them to dwell therein.

14 And the suburbs thereof shall measure two thousand cubits on the north, on the south, on the east, and on the west, of every city : and every city shall be in the midst thereof.

15 ¶ Then Moses blessed the tribes of Israel, and he said :

16 O that Reuben may live : and become a great people !

17 That ^kJudah may be sufficient, that his enemies do not spoil him !

18 Of Levi, he shall possess Urim and Thummim, the Lord shall smite through the loins of them that rise up against him : for they shall teach Jacob the statutes of the Lord, and they shall offer burnt-offerings and incense before the Lord for ever !

19 ^lBenjamin shall be the beloved of the Lord : under the shadow of the Almighty shall be his safety !

20 Joseph shall receive of the precious things of the firmament, he shall eat of the fat of the land, and shall be satisfied : his glory shall be the strength as of an unicorn, he shall push the people together unto the ends of the earth !

21 ^mZebulun and ⁿIssachar shall rejoice : they shall suck of

A. M.
2553.

^k Heb. thanksgiving.

^l Heb. dexterous.

^m Heb. inhabiting.
ⁿ Heb. commerce.

^a Heb. established.

^b Heb. beloved of the Lord.

^c Heb. dispersed.

^d Heb. grace of God.

^e Heb. the raised of God.

^f Heb. the inspector.

^g Heb. liberty.

^h Heb. brother of praise.

ⁱ Heb. popular.

A. M. of the plenty of the seas, and
2553. of the hidden things of the
land !

• Heb. a host.

22 * Gad shall dwell as a
lion : he shall judge among
the people : and the people
shall bless him !

23 Dan shall thrive as a
lion's whelp : his habitation
shall be from Bashan !

• Heb. wrest-
led.

24 * Naphtali shall be highly
favoured : and shall be filled
with the blessings of the Lord !

• Heb. subtle.

25 * Ashur shall be blessed
with his children : his foot shall
he dip in oil, his shoes shall
be iron and brass, and as his
days, so shall his strength be !

• Heb. hear-
ing.

26 * Simeon shall be many
for number : and his bread
shall be fatness !

27 ¶ And Moses called for
Eleazar the priest, and he said
unto him : Take now from
Jasher the rod : and do thou
lay it up before the Lord in
the tabernacle of the congrega-
tion, on the side of the mer-
cy-seat shall it be laid up.

28 And I Jasher, the son
of Caleb, delivered unto Elea-
zar the priest the rod : and E-
leazar put it up in the taber-
nacle, on the side of the mer-
cy-seat before the ark : and it
remaineth there even unto this
day.

29 ¶ And when Moses had
made an end of blessing the
children of Israel, he went up
out of the plains of Moab, un-
to mount Nebo, even unto the
top of Pisgah.

• Heb. fruit-
ful.

• Heb. lofty.

30 And from thence he
saw all the land of * Gilead,
even unto Dan and * Manasseh,
and the land of Judah, even
unto the sea, the plain of the
valley of * Jericho, and the ci-
ty of the palm-trees, even unto
Zoar.

31 And he said, Now be-
hold I with my eyes the land
concerning which the Lord
swore unto Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob, saying, I will give
it unto thy seed.

32 And Moses died in the
land of Moab.

33 And Moses was an hun-
dred and twenty years old
when he died.

34 And the children of Is-
rael wept for Moses thirty
days.

CHAP. XXVII.

1 Joshua exhorts the people to pass
over Jordan ; 8 he sends messen-
gers to Rahab, a princess of Je-
ricbo ; 14 Rahab her advice to
the king of Jericho ; 19 it is re-
jected.

1 **N**OW it came to pass af-
ter the days of weep-
ing for Moses were ended, on
the morrow thereof, that Jo-
shua assembled Eleazar the
priest, and all the elders of the
people, with the captains over
thousands, over hundreds, o-
ver fifties, and over twenties,
before the door of the taberna-
cle of the congregation.

2 And Joshua said, Moses
the servant of the Lord said
unto

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• Heb. testify-
ing.

• Heb. forget-
ting.

• Heb. moon-
shine.

2554.

A. M.
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unto me: When I am gathered unto my fathers, then shalt thou lead the people over Jordan into the land of Canaan: and the Lord will be with thee, and will fight for thee.

3 Prepare therefore for your journey, arm yourselves for the battle: for lo! the trumpet shall sound on the third day, and the ark of the Lord shall go over Jordan before the people.

4 ¶ Then spake unto Joshua the chief of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, We remember the covenant we made with Moses the servant of the Lord, we will go over Jordan armed, and we will not return until our brethren have found rest.

5 And all the elders with one voice cried out and said, All things wherein we obeyed Moses the servant of the Lord, and listened unto his voice will we now do.

6 And whosoever shall turn his back on whatsoever thou commandest: he shall surely die.

7 ¶ And it came to pass on the third day, on the morning thereof, that Joshua rose up early, and the trumpet sounded, and the people gathered themselves together, and they removed from ^aShittim, and they came unto Jordan, and they pitched there.

8 And Joshua sent messengers unto ^bRahab, one of

^aHeb. lodged.

^bHeb. generous.

the princesses of Jericho, saying:

9 Behold on the morrow we shall pass over Jordan: and the Lord will deliver Jericho into our hands.

10 And Rahab said unto those who were sent, Speak unto Joshua and say: The Lord the God of Jacob prosper you, inasmuch as I also am the daughter of an Israelite by a woman of Midian.

11 And it was told unto the king of Jericho all the words which Rahab had spoken.

12 Then the king of Jericho assembled together all his princes and his nobles, and Rahab was there also: for she was a woman renowned for wisdom.

13 And the king said unto Rahab, How is this that you confederate with the avowed enemy of the nations?

14 And Rahab answered, and said, Let not the king be angry: and thy servant will speak.

15 Behold thus saith Rahab, I was born among the Israelites: and they are as the locusts for number, and the Lord the maker of heaven and earth, ^cwhom thou knoweth not, he fighteth for them, even for Joshua, for Caleb, and for all Israel.

16 And this, O king thou knoweth, that Moses with a few chosen men smote all the people

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^c Or, whom thou doth not worship.

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people of Midian, all the people of Moab, all the Jebusites, all the Hittites, all the Hivites, and all the Amorites on the other side Jordan, with the edge of the sword: save only the females, from whom Israel do and will hereafter multiply exceedingly.

17 And hath given their land unto the tribe of Reuben, unto the tribe of Gad, and unto the half tribe of Manasseh.

18 Send messengers therefore unto Joshua, and say, Thus saith Jericho, Spare us we beseech thee, you shall go quietly through our lands, you, your wives, your children, your flocks, and your herds: and ye shall eat of our bread, and drink of our vintage.

19 Peradventure the wrath of Joshua will be turned away from destroying thou and thy people.

20 And the king of Jericho said, It is the counsel of an harlot: and Rahab was shut up in her own house, and spies were set that they might watch her.

CHAP. XXVIII.

1 The ark passeth over Jordan; 8 all Israel pass over Jordan in six days; 15 Rahab sends messengers to Joshua; 17 she dwells in Israel; 18 Jericho is taken; 20 Achan his rebellion.

AND it came to pass on the morrow, that Joshua spake unto Eleazar the

priest, and unto the Levites, saying,

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2 Let the ark of the covenant of the Lord be borne before the people by the priests, as they pass over Jordan.

3 Only this I command, that the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh shall pass over armed first: even as Moses hath commanded.

4 Moreover no one shall come nigh unto the ark, fifty cubits shall the children of Israel, except the priests, leave between them and the ark.

5 And the trumpet sounded, and the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, even all the males thereof: from sixteen years of age and upwards passed over Jordan armed.

6 Then followed the ark of the covenant of the Lord borne by the priests, and they passed over in the midst thereof.

7 And there followed the tribe of Benjamin, even all the armed men thereof, their wives, their children, their flocks, and their herds.

8 And in six days the whole congregation of the children of Israel passed over Jordan: even they, their wives, their children, their cattle, even all their possessions.

9 And they encamped on the west of Jordan: in the plains of Jericho.

10 And

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10 And the wood whereon the children of Israel passed over Jordan stayed upon the face of the waters six days and six nights.

11 And when the people of Jericho, and the kings of the land of Canaan had heard that Joshua, and all the children of Israel had passed over Jordan, and were encamped in the plains of Jericho, that great fear fell upon them.

12 ¶ Now after the people had rested seven days, Joshua commanded the captains of thousands, the captains of hundreds, and the captains of fifties, saying,

13 Prepare ye for the war, that we go up and smite Jericho, and the king thereof: and all the inhabitants with the edge of the sword.

14 And there came forth of all Israel, forty thousand men armed for the battle: and Joshua was magnified in the sight of the Amorites, in the sight of the Canaanites, and in the sight of all the nations.

15 Then Rahab sent unto Joshua, saying: Let me intreat with thee for my nation, that they may live.

16 And Joshua answered, and said, As many as save themselves by flight may live: but whosoever shall be found in Jericho shall surely die the death.

17 Then came Rahab with her kindred, and with all her

household unto Joshua: and she dwelleth with the children of Israel unto this day.

18 And the people of Jericho fled from the city every one to the mountains.

19 And Joshua took the gold and the silver, even all the spoil of Jericho: and he brought it into the treasury of the Lord, and it was holy.

20 ¶ And Achan spake aloud, and said, Wherefore hath Joshua taken from the congregation all the gold, all the silver, and all the brass: even all the spoil of the city of Jericho, and given it to the tribe of Levi.

21 Moses, the servant of the Lord, when we slew the Midianites, the Moabites, and the people of the nations on the other side Jordan, gave the half of the spoil unto the armed men, who went forth to the battle: and the other half he gave unto the congregation according to their tribes.

22 And the sayings of Achan were told unto Joshua: and Joshua said to the Levites,

23 Bring forth Achan, and let him be stoned: for he hath blasphemed.

24 And they stoned Achan in the valley of Achor, in the presence of Joshua, and of the elders, until he was dead.

25 And thus did Joshua punish the rebellion of Achan: even as the Lord had commanded.

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^a Heb. wine-bibber.

^b Heb. tumult.

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CHAP. XXIX.

1 Joshua goeth up to Ai; 5 five thousand Israelites lie in ambush; 11 Ai is taken; 13 the king of Ai hanged; 17 the Gibeonites become the servants of Joshua.

AND it came to pass on the morrow, that Joshua arose, with the men of war, even thirty thousand men of valour.

2 And Joshua said, Go up against ^aAi, and smite the inhabitants thereof with the edge of the sword: let none escape alive.

3 And they went forth, and they abode between ^bBethel and Ai: and Joshua lodged among the people that night.

4 And Joshua arose up early, he and the elders: and they went up to Ai.

5 And Joshua took about five thousand men: and he commanded them to lie in ambush on the west side of Ai.

6 And when the captains had set the people, even all the host of Israel: Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley.

7 And when the king of Ai saw all that was done, but he knew not of the men who lay in ambush, he sent messengers unto Joshua, saying,

8 On the morrow about noon, I and the men that are with me will give you and thy people battle in the plain.

9 Then said Joshua unto the captains, and unto the people: Behold, when the king of Ai and his people come forth to the battle, seem ye as if ye fled before them for fear: and flee ye by the way of the wilderness.

10 So shall it come to pass, that the men of Ai shall come forth of their city, and when the trumpet shall sound, then shall ye turn upon the men of Ai, and destroy them. And they did so.

11 And those five thousand men who lay in ambush arose and entered Ai, and took it: and all the spoil thereof.

12 And when the men of Ai saw all that was done, and that they had no power to flee this way or that way, they were sore troubled.

13 And Joshua and the people smote the men of Ai, and chased them in the field, and pursued them into the wilderness, until there remained none of them: save the king of Ai, whom Joshua hanged on a tree.

14 And Joshua went up to Ai, and smote it with the edge of the sword, all the men, the women, and all the children thereof: save the virgin who knew not man.

15 Then Joshua took all their cattle, and the spoil of their city as a prey for Israel: as the Lord had commanded Moses.

16 ¶ Now

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^a Heb. woe.

^b Heb. the house of God.

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16 ¶ Now it came to pass, after Joshua had smote Jericho and Ai two great cities of Canaan, that great fear fell upon the Gibeonites.

^c Heb. round.

17 And they sent messengers unto Joshua to ^c Gilgal, saying : We are thy servants, whatsoever thou shalt command us that will we do.

18 Only this we pray thee, do not unto us as thou hast done unto the men of Jericho, and unto the men of Ai.

19 Then said Joshua unto the messengers, This shall ye do, ye shall live, and ye shall fight for us, and we will fight for you : so shall it come to pass, that ye shall live quietly in the land.

^d Heb. my town.

20 ¶ And the Gibeonites dwelt in ^d Gibeon, which is a great city, and a royal city, and much greater than Ai : and the men thereof were more mighty.

CHAP. XXX.

1 Five kings war against Gibeon ;
5 Joshua fighteth for Gibeon ; 9
and overcometh the five kings ;
14 and afterwards destroyeth
their cities ; 18 other kings war
against Joshua ; 25 Joshua putteth
them to flight.

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^e Heb. the just lord.

¶ Now when all the kings which dwell on this side Jordan, and on the coasts of the great sea, with ^e Adonizedek king of Jerusalem, had heard all the mighty works which Joshua had done, and

that the men of Gibeon had made a league with him, that they were moved.

2 Wherefore Adonizedek sent unto ^b Hoham king of Hebron, and unto ^c Piram king of ^d Jarmuth, and unto ^e Japhia king of ^f Lachish, and unto ^g Debir king of ^h Eglon, saying,

^b Heb. woe to them.

^c Heb. fierce.

^d Heb. haughtiness.

^e Heb. resplendent.

^f Heb. walking-place.

^g Heb. oracle.

^h Heb. round.

3 Come up unto me, that we and the kings which dwell on this side Jordan, and the kings of the sea-coast, may fight against Gibeon and destroy it : because the men thereof hath made peace with Joshua, and with all Israel.

4 Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts : and they encamped before Gibeon, and they made war against it.

5 ¶ Now Joshua was at this time at Gilgal : with all the armed men of Israel.

6 And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua, saying, Because we are thy servants, behold all the nations on this side Jordan have waged war against us.

7 Come up therefore quickly unto us, and help us, and save us thy servants, that we perish not.

8 And Joshua hastened from Gilgal, with all the men of war,

A. M. war, and the mighty men of
2557. valour.

9 And he came suddenly upon them before the break of day, and he discomfited them, and they fled: and he slew them with a great slaughter before Gibeon, and he chased them along the way that goeth up to Beth-horon, and he smote them even unto Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

¹ Heb. house of the sun.
² Heb. walled.
³ Heb. burnt.

10 And Joshua pursued them with great slaughter until the evening.

11 And Joshua said, Sun be thou silent upon Gibeon: and thou moon shine thou on the valley of Ajalon.

⁴ Heb. strong as an oak.

12 And Joshua returned: and all the men of war with him to Gilgal.

13 And the Gibeonites returned to their city: and they rejoiced greatly.

14 ¶ And it came to pass, after Joshua and the men of Israel had rested themselves at Gilgal, that he sent chosen men up against Makkedah, against Lachish, against Debir, against Jarmuth, against Libnah, and against Gezer.

⁵ Heb. bright as the moon.
⁶ Heb. cut off.

15 And they fought against them, and they took them, even all the cities; and he did unto them, even as he had done unto Jericho, and unto Ai: and he slew the kings thereof, and all the inhabitants thereof with the edge of the sword: even all the men, the women, and the children, save the virgin

who knew not man by lying with him.

16 And the fame thereof went out throughout all the land of Canaan, and the kings of the mountains, and the kings of the vallies, and the kings of the sea-shore assembled themselves together, and said,

17 Surely as dead men are we before Joshua, and before the men of Israel.

18 And P Jabin king of Hazor said unto Jobab king of Madon, and unto the kings of the sea-shore: Up, let us gather together our hosts, our armies, and our chariots, and let us assemble together at the waters of Merom, and fight against Israel and destroy them, lest they slay us, our wives, and our sons, and take from us our daughters, and our heritages.

⁷ Heb. knowing.
⁸ Heb. the granary.
⁹ Heb. howling.
¹⁰ Heb. reproof.

19 And the words of Jabin were acceptable unto all who heard them.

20 And they gathered themselves together at the waters of Merom, and they were much people: even as the sand upon the sea-shore for multitude: and they defied the armies of Israel.

21 And Jabin stood forth and said, Know ye this, if it should come to pass, that the Israelites prevail this day, then shall all the nations be slain: or we and our sons shall become the vassals and slaves of the Hebrews.

¹¹ Heb. high-minded.

22 For

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22 For this cause came they out of Egypt, to slay and dispossess: according to all that the lawgiver, even Moses hath commanded them.

23 To take from us our cities, our lands, our vineyards, our cattle, our gold, our silver, our bras: and also our pure virgins.

24 And lo! now Joshua and the people of war that are with him come forth to the battle.

25 And Joshua with forty and two thousand men, with the men of Gibeon came suddenly upon them, and slew them, and chased them to Zidon: and he smote them until there were none remaining.

26 And Joshua burnt Hazor, because of Jabin the king thereof: for he it was who led the nations to battle.

27 And all the rest of the cities saved Joshua, but the spoil thereof reserved he as a prey for the children of Israel.

28 Then Joshua warred against the Anakims: and he left none of them, save in^a Gaza, in^x Gath, and in^y Ashdod.

29 And the land rested from war.

^a Heb. strong as a goat.
^x Heb. rest.
^y Heb. fire of the beloved.

C H A P. XXXI.

¹ *Joshua is stricken in years; 4 he divides Canaan; 12 the borders of the several tribes; 24 Israel enjoys peace and plenty.*

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¹ **A**ND it came to pass after many days, that Joshua spake unto Eleazar the

priest, unto Caleb, and unto all the elders, and unto the congregation of the children of Israel, saying:

2 Behold I am grown old, and am stricken in years: and peradventure the days draw nigh, wherein I shall be gathered unto my fathers.

3 And all that Moses, the servant of the Lord, hath said unto me: that hath the Lord done by me.

4 Unto the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh did Moses, whilst he was yet with us, give all the land on the west of Jordan, the land of the Amorites, the land of Moab, the land of Midian, all Bashan, and half of Gilead: even all the nations which the Lord delivered into his hands.

5 And at that time Moses spake unto me, and said, When ye shall pass over Jordan, and the Lord shall deliver into your hands all the land of Canaan to possess it, that ye shall divide the land by lot unto the nine tribes, and unto the half tribe of Manasseh.

6 And Caleb stood forth and said unto Joshua: Lo! Caleb thy servant is now fourscore and nine years old.

7 And these fifty and eight years have I gone forth to the battle, with the bow, with the spear, and with the javelin.

8 The tribe of Judah is a great tribe, and Moses the servant

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vant of the Lord hath said, when he sent me to spy out the land, Surely the land on which thy feet hath trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children for ever.

9 And behold I am as strong this day as I was on that day in which Moses sent me : as was my strength then, so is it now for war both to go out and to come in.

10 And behold though the Anakims dwell in the land, give it unto me, that I may possess it: then shall I be able to drive them out.

11 And Joshua said, Be it unto you, even as thou hast said: and he blessed him.

12 ¶ So the border of the lot of Judah encompassed the salt sea at the end of Jordan, and fetched a compass by Kadesh Barnea: even by Karkaa unto Hazer, even unto the river of Egypt.

13 And from Gaza even to Ashdod were its borders on the great sea.

14 And from Ashdod it fetched a compass: and its borders went out by Gath, even unto Makkedah.

15 And from thence the border went out by Bethshemosh unto the south side of the Jebusite, even unto Debir did it go.

16 This is the coast of the children of the tribe of Judah round about according to their lot.

17 ¶ Then spake Joshua and said, The lot of the children of Joseph shall be from Jordan by Jericho to Bethel and Luz, and Ataroth and Gezer, and all the cities and plains, and the lands thereof.

18 But the elders of the tribe of Joseph said unto Joshua, Give we pray thee the land thou hast allotted for us unto Ephraim: for we be many.

19 Let us go up to the wood-country, and cut down the trees thereof, that we may drive out the Perizzites, that we may have cities and houses to dwell in, and lands whereon to feed our flocks and our herds.

20 And Joshua said, Go, and do as ye have spoken: and he blessed them.

21 ¶ And Joshua divided all the land of Canaan: to every tribe according to its number, even as Moses had commanded him.

22 Only to the tribe of Levi did he give no inheritance: for the priesthood is their portion, save the forty and eight cities for them to dwell in.

23 Joshua appointed also cities of refuge for the slayer throughout all the tribes of Israel.

24 And the children of Israel had peace: and they were filled with plenty, with riches, and with virgins.

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^a Heb. fruitful.

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CHAP. XXXII.

1 Circumcision renewed; 13 Joshua dismisses the tribes of Reuben, Dan, and Manasseh; 18 they return and repass Jordan.

NOW it came to pass in those days, that Joshua assembled together Eleazar the priest, the Levites, and all the congregation at Shiloh, and he set up the tabernacle of the Lord there.

2 And Joshua stood before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and he spake in the presence of all Israel, and he said,

3 Now behold the Lord hath given you rest in the land concerning which he swore unto your fathers, saying, Thy seed shall inherit the land of Canaan.

4 Abraham our father heard a voice, when he dwelt in this land, which said unto him: Circumcise the flesh of thy foreskin, for therefore art thou barren.

5 When your fathers were in bondage in Egypt: because of the Egyptians from the time of the birth of Moses they were uncircumcised.

6 But Moses the servant of the Lord commanded me, saying, When ye be come into the land of Canaan to possess it, speak unto the Levites, and say:

7 Make unto yourselves razors, and let the priests circum-

cise one the other: and circumcise ye all the males of the children of Israel.

8 And the Levites did so: and all the people abode in their tents in the camp till they were whole.

9 And Joshua said, This shall be a law and an ordinance unto you to be observed in all your tribes, and in all your families.

10 Ye shall bring every male on the eighth day after he openeth the womb unto the priest to be circumcised: ye shall do this, both ye, your sons, and your sons sons for ever.

11 And it came to pass after seven days that the people were whole.

12 Then Joshua commanded Eleazar the priest, and he read out of the book of the covenant all the laws and the ordinances which Moses commanded to be observed concerning the servant, whether he be a Hebrew or a stranger, and the statutes concerning the virgins of the nations, and the children born unto them.

13 And Joshua blessed the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and he said unto them:

14 Return ye by the way ye came, and go over Jordan, unto your wives, unto your sons, unto your daughtets, and unto your flocks, and unto your possessions.

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15 For

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15 For ye have done all that Moses hath commanded you: ye have obeyed me also.

16 But take ye diligent heed to do the commandments and the laws of the Lord to cleave unto him: and to serve him with all your heart, and with all your soul.

17 Then the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh: even all the armed men thereof, departed from Joshua at Shiloh.

^aHeb. disbanding.

18 And they passed over Jordan to the land of Gilead: whereof they were possessed, as Moses had spoken.

19 And the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh returned into the land of Gilead, with their shares of the spoil they had taken from the Canaanites, with much cattle, with gold, with silver, with iron, and with brass, and with very much raiment: and with their portion of pure virgins, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

C H A P. XXXIII.

The Reubenites, the Gadites and the Manassites build a tabernacle and an altar; 5 Joshua is angry with them; 8 Joshua sends Phinehas to them; 15 their reasons; 22 Joshua is pacified; 29 Joshua and Eleazar die.

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Now it came to pass, that the elders of the

Reubenites, the elders of the Gadites, and the elders of the half tribe of Manasseh said one among another,

2 Behold Joshua and our brethren have set up the tabernacle in Shiloh: let us likewise build a tabernacle and an altar as testimonies unto the Lord; for Jordan is a border between them and us.

3 That the Levites who dwell among us may offer up our burnt-offerings, our sacrifices, and our peace-offerings unto the Lord.

4 And they builded a tabernacle, and they set up an altar on this side Jordan: in the land of their possession, even in Gilead.

5 ¶ And it came to pass, when Joshua and the children of Israel heard thereof: that they assembled themselves together at Shiloh.

6 And Phinehas said, Lo! the people of Reuben, the people of Gad, with the Manassites seek to make themselves a separate people: even as Korah have they sinned.

7 For they have builded a tabernacle, and they have set up an altar, on the other side Jordan: unto Shiloh will they not come, at the place which the Lord hath appointed will they not appear, to offer sacrifices and burnt-offerings.

8 And Joshua said, Send Phinehas, Caleb and Jasher, with the princes of Israel: and let

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2561. let them pass over Jordan, and enquire at their hands the cause thereof.

9 And they went, and they passed over Jordan: and they saw the tabernacle and the altar which the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh had built; and behold they were well to look unto.

10 And they said unto the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the Manassites, Wherefore have ye thus trespassed in making yourselves a people to rebel against the Lord?

11 Tell us we pray ye; Wherefore have ye builded a tabernacle and an altar: besides the tabernacle and the altar which are in Shiloh?

12 And the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and the men of Manasseh answered, and said: The Lord the God of our fathers knoweth, that as a testimony have we builded the tabernacle and the altar.

13 For Jordan is between us and Shiloh: wherefore that we, our wives, our sons, and our daughters might worship the Lord, surely have we done this thing.

14 And speak unto Joshua, and unto our brethren on the other side of the river of Jordan, and say:

15 Thus saith the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and the men of Manasseh, As the Lord liveth, we and our sons

from sixteen years of age shall appear once in every year before the Lord in Shiloh. A. M.
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16 Moreover, whatsoever ye shall command us: that will we do.

17 And the words of the Reubenites, of the Gadites, and of the Manassites were pleasing unto Phinehas, and unto all those who were with him.

18 ¶ Then Caleb, Phinehas, Jasher, with the princes, returned unto Joshua, and unto the children of Israel in Shiloh.

19 And they said, Thus saith our brethren, the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and the men of Manasseh, We are the people of the Lord: and as a testimony thereof have we builded for us, our wives, our sons, and our daughters, a tabernacle, and have set up an altar.

20 And behold once in every year will we and our sons from sixteen years and upwards appear before the Lord in Shiloh.

21 And whatsoever ye shall command us: that will we do.

22 And the thing pleased Joshua and all Israel, and they said, We will not destroy the land wherein the children of Reuben, of Gad, and of Manasseh dwell.

23 And they said, Their choien men shall bear testimony also among the elders of Israel at Shiloh.

24 Now

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24 Now had Israel rest from all their enemies round about: for the people of the nations feared greatly.

25 ¶ And Joshua waxed old, and he called for all Israel, and he said: Behold, I have divided unto you by lot all the land of Canaan as an inheritance for your tribes, possess ye the land, as the Lord hath promised unto you.

26 Now therefore fear ye the Lord: and serve him in sincerity and in truth.

27 And the people said unto Joshua, We will serve the Lord.

28 And when Joshua had made an end of speaking: the people departed each man to his dwelling.

2564. 29 And Joshua died being one hundred and ten years of age.

30 And Eleazar the son of aron died.

CHAP. XXXIV.

1 Judah and Simeon take possession of their lots; 4 Othniel smiteth Kirjaeth-sepher; 7 the Israelites suffer the Canaanites to dwell among them; 15 Phinebas reproves the Israelites for so doing; 21 the people weep; 24 Caleb dies.

2565.

NOW after the death of Joshua, Judah said to Simeon, Come thou, and let us drive out the Canaanite out of my lot: and I will go with thee up into thy lot.

2 And they did so: and they slew of the Canaanite tenthousand men.

3 ¶ And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjaeth-sepher: to him will I give^a Achsah my daughter to wife.

^a Heb. the enchanter.

4 And^b Othniel the younger brother of Caleb took it: then gave he unto him Achsah his daughter.

^b Heb. hour of the Lord.

5 And the children of Judah said unto the Kenites, Ye are the children of Jethro, who was father-in-law to Moses, ye shall dwell in the land, and ye shall fight for us, and we will fight for you.

6 Then Judah went up with Simeon into his lot: and he took Gaza, ^cAskalon, ^dEkrón, and the mountains.

^c Heb. the balance.

^d Heb. enervated.

7 But the inhabitants of the vallies he could not drive out, nor the Jebusites that dwell in Jerusalem: wherefore they dwell among them even to this day.

8 Joseph also in his lot did not drive out the Canaanite: but the Canaanite dwelleth among them.

9 Manasseh in his lot did not utterly drive them out: for the Canaanite would dwell in Megiddo, Dor, Taanach and Bethshean.

10 Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanite: but they dwelt with them in Gezer.

11 The children of Zebulun made the inhabitants of Kitron

A. M. 2565. Kitron and Nahaleel their tributaries.

12 The children of Ashur also dwell among the Canaanite, the inhabitants of the land: in Accho, Zidon, Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik and Rehob.

13 Neither did Naphtali drive out the Canaanite: nevertheless made they the inhabitants of Bethshemosh and of Beth-anath tributaries.

14 So also the tribe of Dan dwelt among the Canaanite.

2568. 15 ¶ And it came to pass, when the tribes of the children of Israel had gone up each unto his lot, that Phinehas the priest spake unto the elders of the people, and said:

16 What is this that you have done? Moses the servant of the Lord said unto you, Ye shall surely drive out all the inhabitants of the land.

17 And behold ye have made a league with the Canaanites, with the Jebusites, with the Perizzites, and with the Amorites: and ye dwell among them.

18 And the elders of the people said, They were too strong for us: peradventure if we had not made a league with them, we had all perished, we, our wives, and our children: and all our flocks and our herds, and our gold and our silver, and our virgins, even all our possessions had been a prey unto them.

A. M. 2568. 19 For who are they, now Moses and Joshua are dead, who can lead forth all the people to battle!

20 Then answered Phinehas, and said, The Canaanites will henceforth be as thorns in your side, and their customs will be as snares unto you: and the Lord the God of our fathers will not go forth with our armies.

21 And the elders of the people lifted up their voice, and wept: because of those things which should befall all Israel.

22 ¶ Now Caleb ruled in Israel after Joshua was dead: twelve years.

23 And the people dwelt in peace all his days.

24 And Caleb died, and was buried: and the children of Israel mourned until the thirtieth day. 2575

CHAP. XXXV.

1 *Jezer succeeds Caleb his father;*
7 *Jezer obtains leave to build a city;* 11 *Azuba her complaint;*
14 *Ehud advises to slay the Canaanites;* 16 *the Israelites separate themselves from them;* 28 *Deborah her request is granted.*

2576. 1 **A**ND it came to pass after these things were fulfilled, that Phinehas, and the elders of the tribes of Israel assembled themselves together at Shiloh.

2 And they said, Who shall judge Israel? for behold, now Moses,

A. M. 2576. Moses, Joshua and Caleb are dead: the people of the Lord are without a leader.

3 And they named Jasher the son of Caleb by Azuba: seeing he is an upright man.

4 And, moreover, this we know, that he hath seen all the wonders wrought in Egypt, in the wilderness: even all the mighty works that have been done.

5 And the people shouted for joy.

6 And Jasher judged Israel in Shiloh.

2577.
* Heb. dutiful.

7 ¶ And it came to pass, that Jezer his younger son said unto Jasher: Behold, I pray thee, the land of Canaan, how the people of the nations mix with thy people.

8 Wherefore let thy son, even thy son Jezer, build him a city, after his name: that the people of the land may be shut out from among us.

9 And Jasher said: Be it even as thou hast spoken.

10 And Jezer builded him a city in the tribe of Judah: the same is the habitation of the Jasherites unto this day.

2579.

11 ¶ Now it came to pass, when the elders of the children of Israel were assembled together at Shiloh, that Azuba the wife of Jasher spake, and said,

12 Lo! the nations will swallow us up: the name of our fathers will surely be forgotten.

13 For the sons of Israel defile themselves with the women of the nations: they have forsaken the daughters of Jacob.

14 And^b Ehud said, Up, let us slay the people of the nations: let us utterly drive them out of the land of Canaan.

15 For so long as they be among us, they will be a snare unto us; and Israel shall be defiled.

16 Then spake Jezer, and said, Separate yourselves from among them: let the Canaanites inhabit their cities, and let us possess our cities.

17 So that they may not come nigh unto us: nor that we nor our sons draw nigh to the people of the nations.

18 And Othniel stood forth and said, Would to God it was now with us, as it was in the days of Moses and Joshua, when all Israel went forth to the war: then might we drive out the nations!

19 For behold now! the armed men of each tribe are for themselves, and for the lot of their inheritance.

20 Moreover, it will henceforth behove us, that we permit not all the males of Israel at one time to appear before the Lord in Shiloh: lest the enemy noteth it.

21 Who shall lead Reuben over Jordan: will Gad with Manasseh now fight for us.

22 Then spake Jasher and said:

A. M.
2579.

^b Heb. unity.

A. M.
2580.

said : Hear, O my people, hearken unto the words of the son of Caleb by Azuba.

23 Peradventure the people of the nations are too strong for us : and who is there now of the sons of Jacob that shall conquer !

24 Reject not therefore the counsels of Othniel, and of Jezer, Suffer ye the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hittites, the Hivites, and the Amorites, to dwell in their cities : and besides the cities we possess of the nations taken in the war, let us build cities for our increase ; for our sons, and our daughters, and their children that they dwell therein, and serve the Lord, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, who hath brought us out from under the bondage of Egypt, unto the promised land : a land flowing with milk and with honey.

25 So shall we and those who come after us be a separate people : sanctified unto the Lord.

26 Moreover, thus hath said the Lord by the mouth of his servant Moses, Your sons shall not take to wife the daughters of the children of Canaan : lest they be cut off from the congregation.

27 And all the elders of Israel cried out, and said, As Jasher our judge hath spoken : so shall it be.

28 ¶ Then came ^aDebora,

the daughter of Jasher, and said unto her father : Behold my husband was slain before Makkedah, when Israel went out to fight for the people of Gibeon.

29 Wherefore that I, and my sons, and my daughters, may serve the Lord, let us build us a city, that we may dwell therein.

30 And Jasher said, Thou hast said it : and call thou its name Debir.

A. M.
2581.

C H A P. XXXVI.

1 *Jasher sends messengers unto the kings of Canaan ; 6 he assembles them nigh Bethel ; 8 Jasher and the kings make a league ; 15 the Israelites serve the Lord all the days of Jasher.*

1 **A**ND it came to pass in those days, that Jasher sent messengers unto all the kings, and unto all the nations of Canaan : and he wrote unto them, saying :

2 Jasher the judge of all Israel unto the kings of the sea-coasts, the kings of the mountains, and the kings of the valleys, greeting : Know ye, that Moses the servant of the Lord hath commanded us, that we should not dwell with you in your cities, nor follow after your customs : and that we should not suffer you to dwell with us in our cities.

3 Seeing we worship the Lord who made heaven and
I earth,

2582.

2581.
^a Heb. the
word ; truth.

A. M.
2582. earth, and all things therein :
and ye fall down and worship
Baalim, and the gods of your
own imaginations.

4 That we shall not give
our daughters unto your sons :
nor take your daughters for
our sons.

5 Wherefore thus saith Ja-
sher, It behoveth, that ye as-
semble yourselves together at
Bethel : that I and all the el-
ders of Israel may covenant
with you.

2583. 6 ¶ And in those days, the
kings and princes of the sea-
coasts, the kings of the moun-
tains, and the kings of the val-
lies assembled themselves to-
gether nigh unto Bethel, in the
way as thou goest up to Beth-
horon.

7 And Jasher, and all the
elders of the tribes of Israel
came there also.

8 And Jasher stood forth,
and he spake unto all the
kings of the sea-coasts, the
kings of the mountains, and
the kings of the vallies, and
said : To live in peace surely,
that there be no more war be-
tween us, our sons, and our
sons sons are we now come.

9 Behold now O ye na-
tions ! chuse you out in eve-
ry tribe, the cities ye are wil-
ling to dwell in, and all those
lands and possessions which
shall be yours : and be ye un-
to yourselves.

10 That your families re-
main inhabitants of the land :

and that ye eat the fruit of
your increase.

11 Then answered all the
kings of the sea-coasts, the
kings of the mountains, and
the kings of the vallies, and
they said : What thou, O Ja-
sher, judge of all Israel, hath
spoken seemeth unto us good :
and all that thou commandeth
that will we do.

12 And they bowed down
before Jasher : and before all
the elders of Israel.

13 And they did all that
Jasher had spoken, and they
took them cities, lands and
possessions in every tribe : e-
ven such as Jasher, and the
elders of Israel had appointed
for them.

14 And the people of Is-
rael dwelt in their cities, and
had their lands and their pos-
sessions, and the people of the
nations dwelt in their cities,
and had their lands and pos-
sessions : and they are separa-
ted even unto this day.

15 ¶ And the children of
Israel served the Lord all the
days of Jasher, who had seen
all the great works done for
Israel in Egypt, and in the
wilderness.

16 And Israel rested from
war, all the days of Jasher :
observing all things written in
the book of the covenant, and
Israel did not defile themselves
with the women of the na-
tions.

A. M.
2583.

A. M.
2594.

CHAP. XXXVII.

1 The Israelites build them synagogues in every city ; 3 the priests read the covenant therein ; 3 they built no altar ; 6 Jasher appoints rulers of cities ; 8 various habits to be wore ; 10 Jasher assembles the elders ; 13 he reminds them of former things ; 21 his charge to the elders ; 23 Othniel is to succeed Jasher ; 24 Jasher blesses Israel ; 26 Jasher builds an ark ; 28 in which Jasher lays up the book which he had wrote.

NOW it came to pass in process of time, when the children of Israel had builded them cities, and had gotten them possessions in the land of Canaan: that they grew mighty, and for number they were as the sand on the sea-shore.

2 And they builded little tabernacles in every city: and in every town.

3 And the priests and Levites, on every sabbath-day, read before the people of every city, and of every town, the law, and the statutes: and they rehearsed in the ears of all the people, the mighty works that were done in Egypt, and in the wilderness.

4 But they set up no altar, neither did they offer burnt-offerings, or peace-offerings: save only at Shiloh.

5 But the children of Israel throughout all their tribes kept the passover and the feasts: as Moses had appointed.

6 ¶ And Jasher appointed rulers of cities: and rulers of towns.

7 And the people dwelt in peace: and they walked uprightly.

8 ¶ And it came to pass, that Jasher spake unto all the children of Israel before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and he said, The garments of the virgin, of the virgin betrothed, of the married woman, and of the widow, shall from henceforth note them as such: that ye may be chaste before the Lord thy God.

9 Likewise the garments of the young man, of the married man, and of the widower shall note them as such: that ye may be blameless.

10 And they said, All these things will we, our wives, our sons, and our daughters, observe to do.

11 ¶ Now it came to pass, that Jasher assembled together Phinehas the priest, and Othniel, and all the elders of Israel.

12 And Jasher spake unto them, and he said: Lo! the days of my life are many: and the time is at hand that I shall return to the place of my fathers.

13 Hear therefore the words of Jasher:

14 Call to mind the days of old: remember the times that are past.

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15 Our

A. M.
2595.

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A. M.

2599.

15 Our father Jacob dwelt in Hebron in this land.

16 And there was a fore famine in Canaan.

17 Now Pharaoh king of Egypt had advanced Joseph: one of the sons of Jacob.

18 Wherefore went he into Egypt, and he dwelt in the land of Goshen: and he died there.

19 After the death of Jacob the Egyptians oppressed your brethren.

20 Then came Moses from Midian, and delivered us out of bondage: and led us thro' the Red Sea into the wilderness.

21 And now behold this day is fulfilled the prophecy of Abraham: Unto thy seed will I give this land.

22 Ye are for multitude a great people: and it shall come to pass, that if you observe the statutes and ordinances of the Lord, and walk uprightly, ye shall drive out the remnant of the Gentiles.

23 Wherefore I charge ye this day, that ye command your sons, that they do not take them wives of the nations: it is an abomination, it bringeth destruction.

24 And lo Othniel! peradventure he shall judge Israel after I am no more.

25 And Jasher blessed Israel, and he said, The Lord, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob prosper your going-out, and your coming-in.

26 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that Jasher called unto him his sons and his daughters: and he blessed them, and he said,

27 The days of my life are one hundred and twelve years: these are the days of my pilgrimage.

28 And Jasher said, This book which I have written, ye shall neither add to nor diminish from: it is thine and thy sons to possess for ever.

29 That the elders of Israel, and the children not yet born, may read and praise the Lord.

30 ¶ And when Jasher had made an end of speaking, he called unto him Jazer, his eldest son, and he said unto him, Build now an ark, that I may put therein this testimony: and do thou lay it up in the city of Jezer.

31 And Jazer builded an ark of Gopher-wood, and he brought it unto his father, and Jasher put therein the book, which he had written.

32 And Jazer laid it up in the city of Jezer.

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The End of the Book of Jasher.

Testimonies and Notes concerning the Book of JASHER.

Testimonies and notes concerning the book of Jasher, taken from the originals now in the ark, with the names of the persons who wrote them, translated from the Hebrew, Chaldee and Persian.

Alcuin.

THE ark or chest is divided into three parts; the place in which the book of Jasher is kept, is locked: the book is deposited in the middle partition, and is for length three foot, and for breadth three foot; the partitions on each side are eighteen inches each: so that the length of the ark is six foot, and the breadth is three foot, and the height is three foot, with four rings and two staves. On the top of the ark, on each side the part in which the book is, is a little slit that whoever remarketh on what they read in the book of Jasher may slide it through the slit into either place.

Jazer.

When any one is desirous to read in the book of Jasher, he comes to the custos, and reads in the presence of the custos, and makes his remarks, if he is so minded, and then the custos puts the said remarks into the ark by the way of the slits, which are on the top, covered with brass, to be pushed aside on such occasions.

Ben Zaddi.

The book of Jasher is now in the custody of one of the princes of Judah in the city of Jezer, and is kept in an ark made of Cyprus: and it is the custom of all the wise men who resort to the ark to read it; (for it is had in very great esteem, and is now in my day consulted as an oracle;) and if any one remarketh thereon, he writes his remark before the custos, and the custos puts it into the ark, from whence it is never estranged.

Zadock.

Jasher is a faithful historian, free from fiction: upright, and an honest man.

Othniel.

Jasher was named ישר; for that he was an upright man, both as to his words, his dealings, his judgment, and his stature:—for that he had wisdom, not only to direct his own conduct, but also that of the commonweal of Israel. He was upright in himself, for he never polluted himself with the women of the nations; he was the husband of one woman, his sister Azuba, who died scarce two months before him. He was married to her before the Exodus, and before the law was given by Moses, which afterwards made such marriages sinful and abominable. He was always attendant on Moses and Aaron, and he bore the rod, or wand of divination, before them. He built a city in the land of Gilead, in the tribe of Dan, whilst the people were yet in the wilderness, and settled his eldest son Jazer there, from whom it took its name. He built a second city, after he crossed Jordan, in the tribe of Judah, and called it Jezer. Jasher in his days directed the people of Israel to walk uprightly before God, to live peaceably, and to love mercy. He reigned over Israel five and twenty years.

Phineas.

Jasher being rod-bearer to Moses, and his brother Aaron knew the facts he hath related; and he is, on that account, to be relied on. The author of the book of Joshua appeals to the book of Jasher, as a testimony; as doth the author of the book of Samuel. And though in the book of Judges, Jasher is not mentioned by name, as the successor of Caleb, yet we believe at this day, that he did judge Israel, from the death of Caleb his father to his own death. There is a testimony to this purpose in the book of Judges: "And it came to pass, when the judge (that is, when Jasher) was dead, that the people returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers." The account of things which Jasher has given seems to me as little

notes

notes which he had made for his own memorial, and designed for private use; and are of this to the public, that they corroborate all the grand truths of the five books of Moses, though the work appears to be wanting of that sublimity and stupendiousness so remarkable in the writings of the former. *Ezra.*

Notes relative to Chap. I. taken out of the ark.

IT was a tradition in my time, and received by all, that the Creator descended from heaven, and came into Eden, and there builded up the man. *Hur out of the book of Aaron.*

Tradition saith, that Cain was a tiller of the ground, and Abel was a feeder of sheep. Now it came to pass, when their possessions were increased, that the cattle of Abel spoiled the tillage of Cain. At which Cain being wroth, he slew one of the cattle of Abel. Complaint was made to Adam. Cain alledged, that he had often spoken unto Abel his brother concerning the injury done him from his beasts coming into his grounds, spoiling his tillage, and devouring the fruit thereof. To prevent future contests, Adam ordered Cain to remove him, and his children, and to go and to dwell to the East of Eden. Which he did, and all enmity ceased, and was in time forgotten; wherefore the place is called the land of Nod unto this day.

Hur out of the book of Aaron.

From this act of Cain in slaying the beast of Abel, it seemeth, arose that story recorded in the book of Moses, that Cain slew Abel. If Cain had taken away the life of Abel, Adam could not have forgiven that crime. Hence the mark set upon Cain: Adam commanded, that no one should seek to do Cain hurt for slaying the beast of Abel. *Ben Zaddi.*

On Jasher it may be noted, that he does not mention Eve. He only says: In process of time, the man conceived, and he brought forth Cain. It was the custom of the first of men in one word to express both male and female. Seeing Moses makes use of two names, Adam and Eve, it is plain, that this is a di-

stinction afterwards found out; he says, God created man in his own image—male and female created he them; as it is written in the book of Genesis. Hence Jasher is to be understood as saying, In process of time the first male and first female of the human species conjoined, conceived, and they brought forth Cain. *Ben Zaddi.*

Then it came to pass, that men first began to fix situations, to form resting places, to make inclosures. This was an invention of Cain to prevent the cattle of Abel from injuring or destroying the fruit of the ground. The first city was a piece of land circumscribed by water. The city of Cain was such a portion of land he found convenient for his occupation. This he inclosed by a rivulet fed by the river of Eden.

Hur out of the book of Aaron.

The city of Cain was not like unto those of our day; the people lived in caves and huts, partly under-ground, and within such a boundary as was inclosed by a ditch, or a small rivulet. *Ben Zaddi.*

Jabal was a shepherd, and invented the tent that he might not return into the city every night: and as he tended his flocks, and one place was more convenient at one season than at another, the tent he could remove as necessity required. Hence it came to pass, that the cotemporaries and the descendants of Jabal used the tent.

Hur out of the book of Aaron.

In process of time it came to pass, that men searched the bowels of the earth for the hidden things thereof. Tubal-Cain, the son of Lamech, invented the shovel, the spade and the pick-axe. He wrought in brass and in iron, and he first made all the instruments of the several kinds of music.

Hur out of the book of Aaron.

When Adam was dead, the days of whose life were nine hundred and thirty years. During all which time, the worship of the Creator, among the obedient sons of Adam, was spiritual and intellectual. After this period, the desponding son of Seth, since named Enos, invented the worship of the body. Hence arose

arose the convention of the seventh day, the worshipping in groves, the use of symbols and of teraphim. *Hur out of the book of Aaron.*

Adam was perfect in his generation, compleat in his stature; of the most extensive knowledge, walking uprightly, and eschewing evil. Eve was perfect in her generation, amiable, and lovely to look unto; of modest behaviour, of consummate chastity; beautiful, walking uprightly, and hating iniquity. Between these two there was no superiority, they were both made at one time, and they both had the same powers of knowledge.

Hur out of the book of Aaron.

Notes on Chap. II.

NOAH was the first who builded up a hut, a floating cave, a vehicle, a house to remain upon the surface of the waters. With this he visited the opposite land, improved fishing; and his sons after him transplanted themselves to distant lands. *Hur.*

At this time all the people of the earth spake one language, and lived in common; were of one mode, of one form, and of one way of life. *Hur.*

And it came to pass when the sons of Japhet saw that the land was burthened with people, by reason of the longevity of men at this time, and the number of children born unto them, and having now built themselves floating habitations, and invented the sail, they sought distant lands. *Hur.*

The sons of Japhet settled in that part of Asia the less, which lieth upon the Mediterranean. *Ben Zaddi.*

In the days of Peleg, it came to pass, that men first began to inclose lands. He enacted the laws of property. He settled the bounds of families; he first gave to particulars inheritances; he grew an arbitrator, lands were given by him for cultivation; infringers hence became culpable of his displeasure; punishments, riches, pride, government, poverty, idleness, rebellion ensued. Thus at this time people friends were dispersed, different interests destroyed union; avarice arose. One from distance of place became strangers ene-

mies to the other, contests and local vices sprung up. Leaders, rulers, teachers arose, new words and ideas took place; so that in process of time people who understood one another heretofore could not converse; hence misunderstandings, misrepresentations, enmities, evil-speaking, war, &c. *On.*

Nimrod arose and opposed himself to Peleg. Now Nimrod was a man whose way of life was opponent to inclosures, for he was a hunter; he ranged the lands, and slew the beasts of the field, with an arrow from the bow. He spake against the sayings of Peleg; but it came to pass, that Peleg was mightier than Nimrod. Wherefore Nimrod said unto those that were with him: Let us also build us cities to dwell in; lest Peleg and those that are with him be too many for us. This was the beginning of the kingdom of Babylon, and Nimrod was the first king thereof. *Pbineas.*

Notes on Chap. III.

NOW had the world subsisted about two thousand years, and from their dispersion and different views and interests different modes of worship had arisen; men had forsaken the precepts of the patriarchs, the natural worship of the deity; set up symbols of the deity; worshipped in groves, estranged themselves concerning the truth; their ideas became through vice circumscribed, the discerning few now got rule, irregularity and punishment stalked. Abraham seeing the defection of his brethren, counselled them to return to the ways of old; but they had gone so far astray, and had so bewildered themselves that they could not return to their primitive way of worship and life. This obliged Abraham to leave their society, that he and his family might serve the Lord, impelled, that if he and his walked uprightly, that from him would arise a great people, by whose example the nations would be led to serve the Lord. *Hur.*

Tradition saith, That the patriarch Abraham heard a voice as from heaven, commanding him to slay his son Isaac, as he was in

in the field alone by himself. Abraham returns to his wife Sarah disconsolate. Sarah enquires the cause, and Abraham tells her, that a voice from heaven had said unto him, Take thy son, and slay him, and offer him up a burnt-offering in the land wherein he was born. Upon this, Sarah, who was a woman of great wisdom and discernment expostulated with Abraham, and convinced him that it could not be the voice of God; and her argument was very conclusive: If the holy voice has said, Of thee I will make a great nation; the holy voice cannot say this, because if thou slayest thy son, how can the former be fulfilled.

Hur.

Notes on Chap. IV.

JASHER takes no notice, why Joseph was advanced in the court of Pharaoh; and therefore it may be presumed, that so many stories were extant, that he could not with certainty adopt one. However, the most probable, I will here set down, as a remark on that part of Jasher which concerns Joseph. Joseph was the beloved of Jacob, and obtained leave of his father, to travel into Egypt; for, says he, there will be a famine in the land of Canaan, and I will go and provide corn for you and my brethren at Zoan, that ye perish not. Accordingly, Joseph had not been long at Zoan before there happened to be a great increase of corn in that land; but in the land of Canaan, the earth brought not forth. Now Pharaoh sent and gathered together all the wisemen of his kingdom, and he said unto them: Behold, the earth giveth of its increase thrice told, and there is as much more food for the people than they want, and moreover the hands are not equal to the harvest! what shall we do? And the wisemen knew not. And it was proclaimed, saying, Whosoever shall resolve the thing he shall stand before Pharaoh. And it was told unto Pharaoh, that Joseph, the stranger, the son of Jacob who dwelt at Hebron in the land of Canaan could unfold the secret. Then Pharaoh called for Joseph, and Pharaoh said unto him, Speak. Then Joseph bowed him-

self before Pharaoh, and said, The Lord God of his fathers had revealed it unto him, that there should be great plenty in Egypt, and that there would be great dearth in the land of Canaan, which dearth was then actually begun; wherefore, O king, build store-houses in every city, and buy ye of the Egyptians the surplus of their abundance; peradventure this time of plenty will be succeeded by a time of want and scarcity. Then Pharaoh advanced Joseph.

Pbineas.

There is but one expression in Jasher which points at all the evils which the administration of Joseph brought on the Egyptians, it is this; And he was a stranger in the land of Egypt: and he bought Egypt with a price. The Egyptians before the advancement of Joseph was a free people; they paid no tax towards the support of the government, nor of the priesthood. As Joseph had prophesied, so it came to pass, the time of plenty was succeeded by a time of want and scarcity. And then it was, that he sold unto the people at a great price, the increase he had before bought for a very low price. When he had exhausted the money, and the jewels of the people, and brought the wealth of Egypt into the king's coffers; and the people still wanted food, he then bargains with them that they should pan their lands. And when the dearth was over, then it came to pass, that all Egypt by a perpetual decree rendered the fifth of its increase unto Pharaoh.

Pbineas.

The Hebrews were oppressed by the Egyptians by a taxation, and which was as a brick for hardness; when Pharaoh saw that they were become a great people for number, he sent unto them, that they should bear some part of the public burthen, towards the maintenance and dignity of the state; he alledged, that when the famine was in the land of Canaan, the corn of Egypt saved their lives; that therefore they should give them the tenth of their increase, of their flocks, of their herds, and of their grounds. The children of Israel, who had lived free from the least demand of any kind, for three hundred years and upwards, regarded this imposition, as a brick,

brick, that is, as a hard thing, and were uneasy under it.

Hur.

Notes on Chap. V.

MIRIAM was born fifteen years before Moses. She was the daughter of Amram by Jochebed his wife; one who to great natural parts added that of great thought and foresight. The decree coming forth, that the Hebrew males should be all slain as they were born, and she having heard how good-natured the daughter of Pharaoh was, proposed to her parents, that she would carry her brother Moses, and meet the princess as she walked by the river side, which was the custom of the princess every morning to do, and seem as though she was going to drown the infant. By which means, says Miriam, when the princess beholdeth the child, peradventure she may enquire what I am about to do with the infant. Then will I answer, and say, I am going to drown it, it being an infant male of the children of Jacob, according to the decree of Pharaoh thy father, which says, Every male that openeth the womb, among the children of Jacob shall you drown in the river. O, says Jochebed, thou art as a sea of bitterness unto me! O my daughter thou hast ingulphed me in an ocean of perplexity! Be not afraid, says Miriam, whether is it not all one, that he perish by the hands and command of the daughter of Pharaoh, or by the slayers of infants; we cannot always hide him from knowledge. The morn arose, the sun rejoiced to run his course, and all nature smiled, when Miriam almost by force takes up the lovely infant, whose innocent looks were enough to engage every eye, and away she carries him to the banks of the river to meet the princess. Jochebed and Amram follow at some distance waiting the event. The princess was taking her morning walk, attended by her women. Now Miriam had placed herself under a tree, where she knew the princess would pass by, and was there kissing, and taking, as it were, her last farewell of her brother, and as the princess approached, was swaddling it up, that with the

greater convenience she might throw it into the river, and then she kisses it again, and the tears flowed from her eyes. The princess and the ladies stood at some distance viewing and thinking what the meaning of this thing could be; and seeing that the young woman looked at the water, and then at the child, imagined that she was going to drown it. Upon this the princess calls earnestly to Miriam, and asks her, what she was going to do with the infant? Miriam advances, and says, I am about to drown it, even as Pharaoh has commanded. How! says the princess, sure Pharaoh has not said it. Then answered Miriam, Thy father hath said, Every male that openeth the womb, among the children of Jacob shall ye drown in the river. And this is the first which hath opened the womb since the decree hath been made. And the princess said, Give me the child. Miriam having delivered the child, the princess enquires for one to nurse it. Here Miriam produces his mother Jochebed to be a nurse for her brother. And the princess said, He shall be my son, and his name shall be called Moses, because I have taken him from the water, wherein he was to be drowned. Then Jochebed took Moses, and returned unto her house, and she said to her daughter, Behold, now thou art unto me as an up-lifting. Aaron at this time was three years old. The princess that very day went unto Pharaoh, and got the decree revoked. Thus did Miriam, when fifteen years of age, contrive the revoking of the decree of Pharaoh concerning the murder of the infant males of the children of Israel.

Hur out of the book of Aaron.

Miriam from hence became the admired of the Hebrews, every tongue sang of her praise. She taught Israel, she tutored the children of Jacob. And the people called her, by way of eminence, The teacher. She studied the good of the nation, Aaron and the people hearkened unto her. To her the people bowed, to her the afflicted came. Israel enjoyed peace all the time of the days of the princess, who succoured Moses. Miriam was ninety five years of age, when Moses came from

K

Midian.

Midian. And Aaron was eighty and three. And Moses was eighty years of age.

Hur out of the book of Aaron.

It was a tradition in my time, that the princess carried Moses to her father, and by shewing him the infant, and expostulating with him concerning the barbarity of those who had counselled the decree, prevailed on the king to revoke it.

Hur.

Notes on Chap. VI.

MOSESES who till now had lived altogether in the court of Pharaoh, leaves Zoan, and goes into Goshen to visit his brethren the Hebrews, when there he encourages them to revolt from the Egyptians. Pharaoh hearing of this, Moses thought it best to fly into Midian, being then forty years of age. There he marries Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro, who was the son of Esau, who was the son of Isaac. Jethro was a great man, one who had given laws to his people, and was both a king and a priest. He was a worshipper of the true God, but did not use circumcision among his people; yet he ordained a priesthood, and appointed the observation of sabbaths, and of feasts, and kept holy days. There was a particular enmity notwithstanding betwixt the descendants of Jacob, and those of Esau; and Jacob had particularly cautioned his children not to marry among the uncircumcised. Jethro finding that Moses was a man of great policy, and versed in all the learning and magic of the Egyptians gives him his eldest daughter Zipporah to wife; by whom Moses had two sons, Gershom and Eliezer. At the expiration of forty years afterwards, Moses is told by Jethro, that the Pharaoh who sought his life was dead; is advised to go up into Egypt, and to endeavour to bring his brethren from under the yoke of Pharaoh into the wilderness, and there to make them a separate people, under a particular government of their own. Moses, flushed with the thoughts of success, brings out of Midian, Zipporah and her two sons, and comes into Goshen: but the elders know him not, and tell him, that

he had transgressed the precepts of Jacob in marrying Zipporah. Upon which disgust of the Hebrews, Moses sends Zipporah and her two sons back to Jethro.

Hur.

And it came to pass, during the time Moses was in Midian, which was the space of forty years, that Caleb, who was a ruler among the sons of Jacob, and a mighty man, invented the arrow, and the bow, and trained up the males to the use of it, and he and his followers became expert in it. This was a contrivance that was more excellent than the javelin: he found he could kill the enemy hereby at a great distance; wherefore the Hebrews in this respect became too mighty for the Egyptians.

Osbniel.

Notes on Chap. VII, VIII, IX, X, XI.

MOSESES persuades the Hebrews to leave Goshen, and go into the wilderness. They ask of him a sign, he gives them many, which they believe. But Pharaoh when Moses went to him would not believe. After many persuasions, with the advice of all his princes Pharaoh lets them go, upon certain conditions: which the Egyptians told him the Hebrews had not performed: At which Pharaoh was provoked, and pursues Moses and the people. Of which Moses having intelligence, he changes his course, and (when at the extremity of the Red Sea, purposing to lead the Hebrews to the foot of mount Sinai, and put them under the protection of the Midianites, lest Pharaoh should pursue him, and in his rage slay the Hebrews,) turns off towards Baal-zephon, in which neighbourhood Moses encamped. When Pharaoh and his host came to Etham, seven days after Moses had left the place, he was informed, that Moses, instead of going strait forward into the wilderness, was gone to Baal-zephon. Here Pharaoh stops, his troops being fatigued with a sudden and hasty march, and sends to demand of Moses satisfaction for what injury the Hebrews had done the Egyptians. Upon this Moses sends Jasher to tell Pharaoh, that he would search out the offenders, and deliver them up, and such restitution should be

be made as should be satisfactory to them, and that this should be done by the fourth day. To this Pharaoh agreed, indeed he was necessitated to stay, for his troops were so harrassed and faint that they wanted rest. Moses having thus gained time, disposes the march of his people over the sands of the Red Sea, in the manner following: He ordered Aaron to lead the van into the sea, at the recess of the water; they went in a man and a woman; the women carrying and leading the infants, and the men carried the baggage. Thus did they march; the tribe of Levi and the tribe of Joseph got over that reflux; the next the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Simeon; the next the tribe of Benjamin and the tribe of Ephraim; the next the tribe of Zebulun and the tribe of Issachar; the next the tribe of Dan and the half tribe of Manasseh; the next the half tribe of Manasseh, and all the women and children of the tribe of Reuben and the tribe of Gad, with their baggage. Moses having thus dismissed all, except the men of Reuben and Gad, about midnight blew the trumpet, and he led the people threw the sea with a hasty march, for which he had prepared them by sending away their wives, children, and baggage. Moses had so well contrived to cut off all intercourse between the Hebrews and the Egyptians, that the latter knew not that the former had fled. On the fourth day in the morning Pharaoh sends to demand restitution, but behold Moses with the tribes of Reuben and Gad had crossed the Red Sea, in the preceding night. They hastened unto Pharaoh, and told him, that the Hebrews fled by the way of the Red Sea; (for there was a road which led through there, at the reflux, for foot-passengers, but was not at all commodious for horses and chariots.) Now during the time that Moses and the tribes passed through the sea, by night the moon shone; but afterwards the dark nights came on, and the rains fell. Pharaoh pursued Moses to Baal-zephon, and here he was told in what manner the Hebrews passed the sands of the Red Sea. At this Pharaoh was greatly disheartened, and he said, Let us

return from whence we came, for we cannot go over the sands with our horses and chariots: and could we cross with part of the host of Egypt, for all cannot pass at one reflux, the Hebrews will slay us. Wherefore Pharaoh cursed the people of Jacob, he and all the host of Egypt, and returned to Zoan. *Hur.*

It was at this time, and on the account of the fraud Moses and his people had put on the Egyptians, that they were called יַעֲקֹבִים or יַעֲקֹבִיִּים that is, Jacobites. *Ekud.*

Miriam first stepped into the Red Sea, amidst the thousands of Israel, who thereupon cried out, Behold the queen of the sea. When all her people were safe in the wilderness, she proclaimed a feast, at which Miriam and the women of Israel leaped for joy. *Hur.*

The people of Israel soon after they had left the borders of the Red Sea, and had journeyed for three days into the wilderness had exhausted their water, and thereupon was in great distress, and they said, Where shall we now have water to drink? Moses, in this emergency, assembles the elders. Miriam was one of the assembly, for she being the admired of the people, they proceeded to no business till she was present; nay, so deep was her penetration, and so exquisite her judgment, that her word was final. She advised, that they should dig for water. *Hur.*

The great wisdom and policy of Moses is here very conspicuous, in his selling to the Egyptians, for their gold and silver, all the possessions of the Hebrews. By this means, they had wherewithal, when they had gotten into the wilderness, to purchase oxen, sheep, and all the necessities of life, of the Amalekites, the Hivites, &c. and also all utensils of husbandry, and horses, &c. for their immediate use. *Othniel.*

The riches the Hebrews carried with them procured them the friendship, at least the indulgence of the people of the nations, for the trade of gold for the fruits of their land made them rich. This Miriam perceived would in time impoverish her own people, wherefore she advised them to till the ground, and to tame the beasts of the field. *Jazer.*

It seemeth plain, that the Egyptians intended to buy the possessions of the Hebrews for a very small sum, and thereby to oppress them grievously; but this scheme of Moses and the elders to sell more in number of every thing than they had, outwitted them, and flung their iniquity upon their own heads. Besides, Moses by this means brought his own people the more readily into his designs of shaking off the power of Egypt. *Zadock.*

Miriam might justly be stiled, the mother of the Hebrew nation, in a proper sense, for she taught them first to dig for water. She likewise stimulated them to till the ground, and cultivate the tree. She brought grain out of Egypt, and sowed the field. The male and female of the flock and herd did she bring. *Tobias.*

Notes on Chap. XV.

THE contest between Moses and Miriam was concerning the establishment of the laws and customs prescribed by Jethro. She argued and reasoned very wisely. Are not the laws and customs of the children of Jacob sufficient to govern the people, seeing they have done so for four hundred years? Surely the wisdom of our forefathers is greater than that of the Midianites. The people took the side of Miriam. *Hur.*

Miriam opposed the introduction of the laws given by Jethro. She well knew, that if Zipporah was suffered to dwell among the children of Israel, of consequence the customs of Midian would take place, that intermarriages would happen, and that such practices would tend to the ingulphing them in the nations. *Jezzer.*

All the days of the life of Miriam were one hundred and twenty years. In her time, the Israelites received no other laws and customs, save those from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The patriarchs in every family ruled. *Jezzer.*

When the people of the nations, the Moabites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Amorites, the Jebusites, and the Hittites heard that Miriam was dead, they were moved; and the reason was, because she restrained Moses from destroying them. *Othniel.*

Notes on Chap. XVI, XVII, XVIII.

MOSESES, soon after the death of Miriam, orders Nadab and Abihu to build an altar nigh unto mount Sinai, and to raise twelve tables or pillars for each tribe to come unto. When this was done, he appoints twelve young men, of great strength, to slay oxen, and sheep, and lambs, and roast them on the altar: and Moses blew the trumpet, and he proclaimed a feast, and every tribe assembled each to his pillar or station, and they sat down, and they did eat. And this was the first public feast of the Israelites. And now it was, that they chose out seventy elders for to be with Moses, and to judge the people. *Hur.*

Moses after the contest with Miriam never attempted to establish the laws of Jethro till some time after her death. He had a design to secrete her, imagining, if it had not been for her humane disposition, he should have been able to have settled the people in Canaan during his life, which would have been for the good of the commonweal; but the policy of Moses was for killing and destroying all before him: the policy of Miriam was the reverse. Miriam dying, things remained for a short time in the method she left them; but as the people could not now apply unto her for wisdom, they were at a great loss, and that loss grew daily more and more perceptible. At length, the complaints reached the ear of Moses. In order to redress the grievance, Moses advises the people to elect such persons as they should think capable of judging the people. That the people should elect, was pleasing to the multitude. They swallowed the bait, by which means Moses had seventy to assist him in the administration. The first thing Moses proposed, and which they agreed to, was the admission and adoption of Zipporah and her sons. Moses soon after assumed the title of king; and having brought Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders, who spake for the people, into his plan of forming the Hebrew monarchy, they assembled on mount Sinai, and together with Jethro fix on the rule of government. *Phineas.*

At

At the close of the forty days Nadab and Abihu are expelled; they come down the mount, and excite the people to return into Egypt. Of this Moses is informed by Aaron whilst he was on the mount. The assembly, after Nadab and Abihu left it conclude, to settle a priesthood, and this was to be in the tribe of Levi. Of this Nadab and Abihu were ignorant. Moses being come with the elders to the entrance of the camp, he first sent for Aaron, and acquainted him, that he and his family were hereafter to be the priests of the new covenant; and ordered him, with the utmost secrecy to make known the thing to the chiefs of the tribe of Levi, save Nadab and Abihu. During the absence of Aaron, Moses provides a great number of instruments of destruction, and he hid them in a tent. On the next day, Moses, with Aaron and Hur, came to the camp. And the trumpet sounded, and a voice proclaimed, saying, Who is on the Lord's side? [which was the word Moses had given to Aaron to deliver unto all the Levites] let him come forth of the camp. As no one, besides the Levites were in the secret; nor Aaron, Hur, nor they, as to the slaughter Moses intended by their hands to execute, immediately on the proclamation the Levites leave the camp, and assemble themselves before Moses. When this was done, Moses puts into the hands of the Levites each one an instrument of destruction, and the trumpet sounded, and the voice proclaimed, saying, Gird on your swords, and go through the camp, and kill every man his friend, and every man his neighbour. And besides Nadab and Abihu, the Levites slew three thousand men. No women were slain. When Aaron saw the fall of Nadab and Abihu, his two sons, and the slaughter of the people, he wept for the miseries that were come upon his brethren, since the death of Miriam. And he said, Oh what a flood of bitterness is this, thy death O sister hath let in upon us! But Moses, Jethro, and Zipporah now rule us with a rod of iron. The days of my life are but few; of them few all will be evil.

Hur.

Moses, in order to induce the Levites, to gird on these swords, insinuates, that it was for their defence, lest the body of the people should rise and slay them: This obtained, he commanded them to the slaughter. *On.*

Notes on Chap. XIX,—XXII.

FROM the slaughter of Nadab and Abihu, and the three thousand Israelites, Moses proceeds to establish all the laws and ordinances he had received on the mount. And in this he succeeded, without the least interruption, till he came to excuse the Levites from labour, till he set them apart to the priesthood, and had appointed such dues to be given them by the other tribes as should be a sufficient maintenance for them. Upon this, the rebellion of Korah arose. And as the door of the tabernacle was the usual place of assembly, here Korah, Dathan and Abiram and On, with two hundred and fifty of the principal men of Israel, undertake to expostulate with Moses, Aaron, Jasher and Hur the unreasonableness of it. Moses puts them off till the next day. In the interim, Moses hid the Levites within the tabernacle behind the hangings. And when Moses had sent away the people, the Levites rushed out of the tabernacle, and slew with fire Korah and those that were with him. *Hur.*

On appeared the first day, but he repented of his crime, and so escaped the evil his brethren fell into; however, he fled into Canaan, all the days of Moses. *Hur.*

The name of the son of Shelomith was Badab. He was a rash youth, and he encountered Moses alone. He was a man of great elocution, a fine person, and very popular; he spared no pains to shew and declare to the people, that the ways and schemes of Moses were not the commands of Jehovah, as he Moses had pretended. For this his blasphemy, he is brought before the seventy, and adjudged to be stoned. *Hur.*

And if Moses had not put an end to his cavils by this sentence, it is thought, he would have raised a schism among the people. *Hur.*

Notes

Notes on Chap. XXV, XXVI.

AFTER the death of Jethro, Balak king of Moab, made the people of Midian his subjects. Now Moses, who had married Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro, was angry with the Midianites for putting themselves under the protection of Balak; wherefore he became their enemy, and was determined the first opportunity to wage war against them; but as the Moabites, the Amorites, the Amalekites, the Hivites, and the Hittites were their confederates, he deferred it for some time, till at length he recollected the promise made to Abraham, that his seed should be as the stars in the firmament, and as the sand on the sea-shore. To accomplish which, he assembled the seventy, and all the elders of Israel to the door of the tabernacle, and after reminding them of the prophecy, advised them, in order that they might for number be able to drive out the nations in Canaan, to go up against Balak, against the Midianites, Moabites, and the nations on this side of Jordan, and to slay all the inhabitants, save the women, that Israel might out of them multiply. And it was agreed by the assembly, that the women should be divided by lot, or tribe. This spirited up the people, and they readily armed every tribe one thousand to the war, and they went out, and they slew all the males of the nations, except those who saved themselves by flight. This got Moses his just revenge on the Midianites, for he expected, that the Midianites would have chosen him for their king. The people fought now for the sake of the women, and for the sake of the spoil; and here was a further view in Moses to enrich his nation, for the Hebrews had bought with their silver and gold, they brought out of Egypt, cattle and corn, and wine and oil, of the Midianites, and of the people of the nations, while they sojourned in the wilderness; and if they now overcome them the silver and gold would fall into the hands of the Hebrews again. Further, Moses perceived, that the Hebrews could not safely pass over Jordan till the nations on this side were destroyed; for he knew, that if he

left them in Gilead, they would take the part of the people of Jericho, and those on the other side Jordan, and so his people might be encompassed and slain, between the armies of Balak, and the armies of the king of Jericho, and of the nations on that side Jordan. *Jazer.*

Moses ordered, Phinehas with the priests to go up with the trumpets, hautboys, cymbals, pipe and tabor, to animate the troops to the engagement. And this was the first time they went. Success attended them. The spoil was great; and it was a fine sight, to see thirty two thousand virgins assembled on a plain, besides an infinite number of women and ladies. The virgins were led by Phinehas and the priests. The women the armed men of the tribe of Reuben brought in. Moses commanded the virgins to abide without the camp. The women were divided the one half to the men of war, and the other to the congregation; but the armed man might sell his woman to him who would purchase. This soon bred great confusion, bickerings, hatred, malice, and what not; but all this time Moses did not divide the virgins, lest he should enervate his people. Hence they murmur. To quell this, the Levites were commanded to slay the strange women; and there fell of the Hebrews twenty four thousand men. After this Moses divided the virgins. These things I saw with my eyes, and I heard with my ears. *Jazer.*

The reason of the slaughter of the Hebrews was, that they opposed themselves to Moses, and took the part of the strange women. *Jazer.*

Moses was now grown old, and he perceived that his strength would not permit him to lead the children of Israel into Canaan. The fatigue was too great for him. However Moses, with Eleazar and Phinehas and Joshua go up mount Nebo, and from that part called Pisgah he takes a view of the promised land: at which Moses was much delighted, and it gave him great satisfaction. Moses then retires into the plains of Moab, to a city called Osea, having left the command of the Israelites to Joshua, and there in the space of six months, he dies. *Phineas.*

Moses

Moses was the greatest of the magi of the age he lived in: and no one has appeared like unto him unto this day. He could turn the rod into a serpent; make frogs skip and live on dry ground; make water as blood; make thunder and lightning, and do such wonders as the people and descendants of Jacob knew nothing of, and at which they all stood amazed. Moses was for stature, symmetry, and comeliness one of the finest men of the age. Some have said, that he was defective in his speech. It is true, he was slow and grave in his utterance; but he spoke with great deliberation, and his speech was with authority; he always commanded attention; and whenever he delivered a new law to the people he did it with great presence of mind, and with trumpets sounding, and with mighty thundrings: and he used always to read it out of a book. He was a man who could bear disappointment, and therefore was by some called the meek; but this was his great policy, and if it had not been for his prudence in this particular, the Israelites would soon have rejected him. The greatest enemy of his ambition was his sister Miriam, who studied no one thing, but the good of the common-weal of Israel, and always opposed in Moses the spirit of tyranny. And it is my opinion, that at the time Moses hid Miriam seven days, under the notion of her being leprous, and the people demanded her, had he continued to have hid her, they would have slew Moses. I saw the thing that was done. *On.*

The saving of the pure virgins of the nations was done with an intent to increase and multiply the number of the children of Israel. This was a scheme, Moses thought implied in these words, And thy seed shall be as the sand on the sea-shore. The multitude of women had this effect, to make the Hebrews numerous, and on this account the concubinary wife was allowed. *On.*

One reason to be assigned, why Moses did not lead the people over Jordan into Canaan, might be the aversion they must naturally have to him, on the account of the slaughter of the twenty four thousand men. This not

only dispirited them, but weakened them very much. The loss of this number could not easily be repaired; however, Moses, in order to appease the people, commands Eleazar and Phinehas immediately to divide the thirty-two thousand virgins between the warriors and the congregation. And it appeareth, that Moses from this time never once attempted to command them; but tells them, that after his death they should obey Joshua, the son of Nun, and he it was that should lead them into the promised land. *Ebud.*

Notes on Chap. XXVII, &c.

SOME time after the death of Moses, Joshua assembled Eleazar, Phinehas, Caleb and all the elders of Israel. At this assembly they make a law, that whoever should not obey Joshua in the same manner they did Moses should be put to death by being stoned.

Othniel.

Rahab was the daughter of Jerioth, who was a woman of Midian. *Othniel.*

After the death of Miriam, for which Israel was inconsolable, Zipporah governed in the court of Moses, and all things went according to the advice of Jethro and Zipporah; new customs were immediately introduced in religion, in manners, in modes of dress: and Zipporah advanced women of Midian and Moab to attend about her person; the elders were fascinated with their wives, and Israel was polluted. Rahab of Jericho was an offspring of this incest. She afterwards married into a family of Jericho, she became a great woman, but was now a widow, and a lady of that land, at the time when Jericho was besieged. *Othniel.*

The Hebrews had in their way to the river of Jordan from the Red Sea passed over several rivers, by means of flat-bottomed boats, which joined so close together, that they walked over as on dry land. This was the manner in which they passed over Jordan; only that here the river being wider, the floating bridge was made wider also; and in length doubled, that the people might pass over in a much shorter time. And first went over the tribe of Reuben,

Reuben, the tribe of Dan, and the half-tribe of Manasseh; then followed the armed men of every tribe, and then followed the women and the children. And here is conspicuous the great policy of Moses in cutting off the nations on this side Jordan first; so that now they passed over unmolested. *Gad.*

Notes on Chap. XXX, &c.

JOSHUA marched from Gilgal in the night, it was moon-light, and when the morning came, he suddenly fell upon the enemy before they were prepared for the battle; by which surprize he put them to flight: the consternation of the enemy was so great, that instead of opposing, every man endeavoured to save himself, some this way, and some that way. And the Israelites slew them with a great slaughter, some with the edge of the sword, others with stones, especially those who fled by the way of Beth-horon, which is a stony way. Joshua and the people being greatly fatigued in marching all the night before, and in fighting from break of day, about sun-set sounds the retreat; for, says he, the evening draweth on, and we have vanquished our enemy, and the sun will be silent and disappear over Gibeon; but the moon which seemeth to be as in the valley of Ajalon will shine, and by the light thereof we shall return to Gilgal. Now the main body of Joshua's army remained with him nigh unto Gibeon. *Ebud.*

The men of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, after their return out of Canaan, where they had been for many years fighting the battles of their brethren, according to the covenant they had made with Moses, begin to form themselves into a nation. To which end, on their repassing Jordan, as soon as convenient might be, they erect a tabernacle in the form of that at Shiloh; and though it was not so magnificent, yet it was for beauty the very model of it. They also built an altar, and the priests and levites continually ministred, and whereon they offered burnt-offerings and sacrifices, and whereunto the people resorted

daily to offer unto the Lord. This thing they did without the advice and consent of Joshua and the elders of the great council at Shiloh, and therefore it was at first deemed as an act of rebellion, and looked on as an intention in them of revolting from the jurisdiction of Israel. Joshua, considering how serviceable they had been in the wars of Canaan, did not command the Israelites to arm themselves, and to go forth and slay them, as Moses it is likely would have done in this case; but he sends messengers to them; they are received kindly, and satisfactory reasons are given for what had been done. They covenanted that they would once in every year appear before the Lord in Shiloh. On their promise of obedience, friendship is renewed, and they had the privilege granted unto them of sending elders to the great council, which used to assemble at Shiloh. *Osbnial.*

The dividing of the children of Israel after they had passed over Jordan, and the dispersion of one tribe to this part of Canaan, and of another to that, destroyed their strength, wherefore it came to pass, that they were obliged to suffer the inhabitants to dwell in the land. *Jazer.*

In a short time after the Israelites came into Canaan, and each tribe had its lot, it came to pass, that each tribe looked to its own particular interest, and had little or no regard to the welfare of the whole. *Ebud.*

Before Jasher had appointed particular cities for the Canaanites, and particular cities for the Hebrews, they lived together in the same town, or city, and many times in the same house. It is plain, they had been very familiar from their intermarriages, which Jasher prohibits. *Zaddock.*

The erection of synagogues, or little tabernacles, in every town, or city, sprung from the example of the Reubenites, Gadites and Manassites, and therein the Levites read the law on the sabbath, the wonders done in Egypt, in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness; and on the eighth day circumcised the male-infants. *Jazer.*